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PART XXXV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March 1879.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

PART XXXV.

No. 1.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 16. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 15, 1879.

THERE are two questions which seem destined to create some embarrassment to the Porte in its relations with the Cretan General Assembly. The former of these questions I had the honour to refer to in my last despatch to your Lordship, viz., that having reference to the understanding come to last autumn between the Imperial Commissioner and the Christian Delegates that in case of a deficit declaring itself in the annual budget of the island it would be supplemented by a contribution from the customs dues not exceeding one half of their amount. There being a declared deficit in the revenue of the financial year ending the 12th March next, and a large anticipated deficit in the following year, a case is established for drawing on that source of revenue, as laid down in Article 13 of the Arrangement signed on the 14th October, 1878, in the drawing up of which Arrangement Her Majesty's Government acted as mediator. On several occasions members of the Assembly have made interpellations on this subject, and the Governor-General has had to inform them that no decision has yet been come to by the Porte. I now learn that it is the intention of the Christian Deputies to make a final interpellation, insisting that the Government should keep the engagement entered into by it in the Article above cited, while Photiades Pasha has confidentially informed me that the decision of the Council of Ministers on this subject has just been communicated to him by the Grand Vizier, by which they declare that they cannot part with any portion of the customs dues for administrative purposes. His Excellency frankly confessed to me that he dares not communicate this resolution to the Assembly, and he is representing to the Porte the absolute necessity of their reconsidering it if they wish to avoid a rupture with the Assembly.

The other subject on which the Deputies are disposed to charge the Porte with a breach of faith is that of the exemption of the islanders from the payment of tithes on produce gathered in during the insurrection. It was stipulated in the second of the Additional Articles annexed to the main clauses of the Arrangement that arrears of tithes should not be demanded of the insurgents. This is understood to mean by the latter that no tithes should be collected up to the 14th October, a period during which the grain, the locust beans, and the valonia nuts were harvested. The Porte interprets the exemption to have ceased on the 13th March, the commencement of the current financial year, and the Government agents have, in conformity with that interpretation, been collecting the tithes from the peasantry without making any distinction as to the time the produce was harvested. Photiades Pasha tells me that he considers that the authorities have already received the tithes of three-fourths of the disputed produce, and he has solicited the Porte, but in vain, to remit the rest. On this subject I am in a position to speak with authority, as I was present, in my official capacity as mediator, when the question was discussed. There can

be no doubt that there was a distinct understanding that the produce to be exempted was that harvested during the existence of the insurrection, which could not be said to have ceased till the 14th October, when the Arrangement was signed. There is a disposition on the part of the more moderate-minded Deputies not to demand the restitution of what has already been collected, seeing that it has been expended for local necessities, but the people are determined to resist further payment under this head.

Since writing the above the Pasha has announced to the Assembly in to-day's sitting that His Majesty the Sultan has consented to forego any further claim to the disputed tithes, so that this vexed question is happily set at rest. There is little chance, however, of the Assembly ending peaceably unless the Vali is also able to announce to them before they disperse that the half of the customs are to form part of the local budget.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Canea, Crete, February 17, 1879.

My Lord,

THE organization of a judicial system for Crete has been the main occupation of the General Assembly during the past week. According to the scheme which they have submitted to the President for the sanction of the Porte, the island is to be divided into twenty-three judicial districts, at each of which shall be established a Court, formed of two Judges (a Mussulman and Christian) elected by the Demogerundia, and a Juge de Paix named by the Vali. In each of the four sandjaks governed by a Mutessarif Pasha, and at Canea, where the Vali resides, there is to be a Court of First Instance composed of four Judges, elected by four representatives of the people, and a President, a Procureur, and a Juge d'Instruction, all three appointed by the Vali. Finally, at Canea is to sit a Court of Appeal, likewise composed of four Judges, chosen by the General Assembly, with a President, Procureur, and Juge d'Instruction, appointed by the Vali.

Among the functionaires nominated by the Governor-General, those are to have the preference who are provided with a diploma from some University recognized by the Porte. In default of such diploma, preference will be given to those candidates as shall pass an examination before a Commission composed of eight members, viz., the Presidents, Procureurs, and Juge Instructeurs of the Courts of Appeal and of First Instance at Canea, and two of the Judges of the Court of Appeal.

In case a supply of candidates fulfilling either of the above conditions shall not be forthcoming, preference will then be given to those who have previously served in judicial posts in Crete. The functionaries appointed by the Vali will be liable to be dismissed by him.

The main points of difference between the system thus recommended by the Assembly and that introduced by the Organic Law of 1867 are the following:—The reduction of the elected Judges of the petty Courts from four to two; the obligation imposed on the non-elected candidates to be furnished with a diploma or a certificate from a Board of Examiners; the appointment of Procureurs and the election of the Judges of the petty Courts by the Demogerundias, bodies elected by the people, instead of by the people directly. These changes, so far as they go, seem to be improvements on the old system.

The salaries have not yet been settled, but I understand that they will be fixed on a low scale. For instance, it is the wish of the Assembly to allot a salary of only 36,000 piastres a-year (277*l.*) to the highest judicial functionary in the island, the President of the Court of Appeal, but Photiades Pasha is resolved that his salary shall, if possible, be 60,000 piastres (468*l.*), and in that case he hopes to secure the services of an able lawyer for the post. The Juges de Paix in the twenty-three petty Courts will probably only be paid 65*l.* a year, a sum quite inadequate to procure men fitted for those responsible positions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 3.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 18. Political.)
Canea, Crete, February 18, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is now nearly a month since I had to report any murders in Crete, while for some time previously they had been of constant occurrence. This improved state of things is mainly due to the wise measures taken by the Governor-General. The bloody acts of reprisal between Christians and Mussulmans were more prevalent in the district of Candia than elsewhere, and in order to put a stop to them his Excellency with difficulty persuaded the Commander-in-chief to order some of the troops to be cantoned in different points in that part of the country. The Brigadier-General in command in Candia, Nedjib Pasha, zealously seconded the Vali's wishes, and caused eight companies of regular troops to take up positions near certain villages, half of each company being stationary, while the other half constantly patrolled the country, under the guidance of a few zaptiehs. Their presence restored confidence to the Mussulmans, who began gradually to return to their homes, and the cessation of crimes of violence testified to the efficacy of these measures. They were secretly disapproved of, however, by Ali Haidar Pasha, the Lieutenant-General (Ferik) in command, who reported against them to the Minister of War, who yesterday sent a telegram to order the troops to return to the garrison in Candia. Ali Haidar Pasha has himself gone to Candia, presumably for the purpose of seeing the order carried out.

Photiades Bey has frequently complained to me of the obstructiveness of the Commander-in-chief, and it is much to be regretted that the tranquillity of the island should be put in jeopardy by the want of harmony existing between him and his military colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 4.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 15. Political.)
Beyrout, February 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrout, February 15, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received no fresh reports as to the unsatisfactory state of affairs at Akkar, in the district of Tripoli, where I hope the energetic measures promised by Midhat Pasha will soon restore tranquillity.

The brigand Kharrab, and several other evil-doers who were arrested in the district of Saida, have been sent to Beyrout and Damascus for trial, and the rest remain in prison at Saida. It is to be hoped that this time they will not succeed in effecting their escape from justice, and that the country will be delivered from their deeds of violence for some time to come at least.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé, reporting a quarrel which occurred at El Markab, that resulted in several persons being wounded, of whom three afterwards died of their wounds. Order, however, appears now to be re-established.

At Beyrout on the 12th instant a well-known ruffian named Emin Sardouk fired upon a party of police who were sent to arrest him, and so severely wounded an officer named Yahya Aga that he died the following day.

Sardouk was captured after a desperate resistance, and has already been tried and condemned to death for murder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Vitale to Consul-General Eldridge.

Lattaquié, le 11 Février, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que depuis quelques semaines une querelle a eu lieu entre les Chrétiens, habitants du village Elmetten, du canton de Elmarkab (Caïmacamlik de Gébelé), à la suite d'un différend relativement à un terrain, dans laquelle plusieurs villageois ont été blessés et trois personnes sont déjà mortes à la suite de leurs blessures.

Cet incident aurait pu fomenter un grand désordre dans le canton Elmarkab si le Caïmacam de Gébelé, guidé par les instructions de Chiakir Bey, Gouverneur de Tripoli, n'avait pas pris des mesures énérgiques et arrêté tous ceux qui ont pris part à la querelle, sauf ceux qui étaient grièvement blessés, autrement je crois que des Ansaryéhs et même des Musulmans auraient profité de l'occasion pour prendre part dans l'affaire à laquelle ils auraient donné un tout autre caractère et des suites plus regrettables.

Une première enquête a eu lieu à Gébelé, après laquelle et sur un ordre supérieur toutes les personnes arrêtées (coupables et innocentes) ont été envoyées à Tripoli pour que le Mejliss du Mutesarriflik les juge.

Depuis lors et à l'heure qu'il est tout va tranquillement à Elmarkab.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALE.

No. 5.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Beyrout, February 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the effect produced in the Lebanon by the departure of his Excellency Rustem Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrout, February 15, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the only signs of satisfaction expressed at the departure of Rustem Pasha, which have been reported to me, were the firing of a few muskets at the residence of Bishop Butros at Bteddin and the ringing of the bells of the Maronite churches at Jezzin.

The Lebanon remains in a state of perfect tranquillity, and I am informed that many of the Maronites, who were most bitter against his Excellency, now begin to express regrets at his departure and hopes that he may return to the Mountain, which, they admit, he governed with justice, and that he has displayed activity and capacity in carrying on the administration, as well as great firmness of character in defending the principles of the Réglement and generally the interests of the Lebanese.

They seemed disposed to attribute his difficulties with the clergy to the influence of

those who immediately surround the Pasha, by whom they now pretend he was misinformed and badly advised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 6.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 6. Political.)

Damascus, February 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, February 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Midhat Pasha, while awaiting fuller powers than he at present possesses, is occupying himself, so far as he can, in controlling local corruption and in hastening the course of justice in matters of murder and robbery in various parts of his vilayet.

As regards local corruption, the partial suspension, through fear, of judicial and administrative abuse which heralded his arrival, has been only transitory, and matters are, so far as I can see, as bad as ever.

With regard, however, to the arrest and punishment of criminals, as His Highness' personal energies are directed thereto, better results have followed.

For instance, several persons charged with the murder, under peculiarly atrocious circumstances, of two Christians in the district of Merj Aijoun, have been arrested, brought to Damascus, tried, and condemned to death, His Highness, owing to the crass incompetency of the President of the Court of First Instance, having to make out the Mazbata himself.

He has also caused the arrest, in the Mutessariflik of Acre, of certain brigands and murderers who have hitherto eluded capture and secured immunity. He is also exercising severe pressure upon local functionaries and sheikhs in recent cases of murder and robbery in the neighbourhood of Damascus and of the Hauran; and he is now building new prisons in the Castle of Damascus. He has threatened with dismissal officials permitting and abetting the release of criminals without his consent, thus doing away with a time-honoured custom which condoned offences by means of bribes, or of money payments, after capture, to injured persons.

His Highness tells me that his present powers permit the execution of criminals condemned by the Tribunals of Syria without reference to the Porte, upon his assuming the responsibility and notifying the reasons to Constantinople, and that he intends to avail himself of such powers as often as he considers it necessary. The impunity which has attended the commission of crime in Syria for so many years, and which has necessarily much aggravated it, will thus, I trust, receive a substantial check; and I congratulated His Highness on his decision.

Holo Pasha, Governor of the important Province of the Belka, a man notorious for his maladministration and corruption during a long life of office in Syria, has at length been induced to resign, and Midhat Pasha has sent in his place, on probation, a certain Tetik Bey, promising confirmation if, after six months' trial, he should be found to deserve it. Of this fact he has notified the Porte.

Ibrahim Pasha, who formerly filled many posts in Syria as Mutessarif, has been appointed Civil Governor of Damascus. His arrival is anxiously awaited by Midhat Pasha, as permitting him to quit the capital and visit outlying districts, such as Tripoli, the anarchy and mismanagement of which have given rise to innumerable complaints, and to which he has so far been able to apply but a partial and temporary remedy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 7.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Corfu, February 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Report received this morning from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura relative to the recent formation of robber bands on the Turco-Acarnanian frontier.

2. The Commission assembled at Prevesa for the "rectification" of the Greco-Turkish frontier has hitherto, it appears, been unable to arrive at any definite conclusion. The blame is attributed to obstacles and pretexts artificially invented by Moukhtar Pasha —a view of the matter which is causing great irritation among the Greeks in Acarnania, and particularly in Santa Maura. But the Revolutionary Committee which has its head-quarters in that island is unable for the moment to vent its indignation in acts of overt retaliation, owing, it is said, to the complete exhaustion of its exchequer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, February 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, on the strength of trustworthy intelligence from the frontier, that bands of brigands, composed of discharged "Evsones" (Border Rangers) and other deserters from the Greek army, have made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Agrapha, in the district of Evrytania (Ætolia), and that Colonel Daglis, the Commander of the district, who was about to transfer his head-quarters to Chalcis, has been ordered to suspend his departure and to pursue the bands in question.

Other particulars are wanting, but I will not fail to report to you any further authentic information which may reach me here on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 8.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 74.)
Rome, February 25, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 44, Confidential, and No. 65 of the 8th and 19th instant, respecting the abstention of the Italian delegate from the vote on the motion of the Austrian delegate of the Roumelian Commission, relative to the difficulties created by the Russian officials in the accomplishment of their duties by the Roumelian Finance Commission, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Depretis, in speaking to me to-day of his desire to act in complete accordance with Her Majesty's Government in regard to Eastern affairs (as reported in my despatch No. 73 of this date), mentioned that he had desired M. Vernoni, in the event of any differences arising in the Commission, to bear in mind that it was the wish of his Government that he should always side with the Representatives of those Powers which advocated the strict fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency added that his accounts from Roumelia depicted the state of things as getting worse and worse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 9.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 75.)
Rome, February 25, 1879.

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS, in announcing to me some days ago, as I had the honour to report by telegraph, that he had desired M. Goubernatis, the Italian Consul at Smyrna, to proceed to Prevesa, stated that his object in doing so was to obtain correct information, amidst the conflicting reports which came from Greece and Turkey, as to the state of feeling respecting the proposed annexation amongst the population of a certain part of Epirus which the Greeks claimed under the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Goubernatis, his Excellency said, was eminently qualified, by his intimate knowledge of the country and of the language, to perform this service.

M. Depretis informed me to-day that he had received M. Goubernatis' first report, and that its conclusions were decidedly adverse to the declarations of Greece. The Greek Government, his Excellency said, asserted that the Albanian population were perfectly willing to be attached to Greece; but according to M. Goubernatis nothing could be more decided than their repugnance to such a measure, and he expressed the opinion that they would certainly not yield without a struggle.

M. Depretis added that, as M. Goubernatis' sympathies were in favour of Greece, his testimony on the present occasion was all the more to be relied upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 10.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No 232. Confidential.)
Paris, February 27, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Most Confidential despatch No. 210 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that after speaking to me last evening on the Egyptian question, M. Waddington begged me to convey to your Lordship from him a very earnest request to join him in making strong endeavours to bring the Greek question promptly to a satisfactory settlement.

Since he had spoken to me before on the subject, he had, he said, received from Safvet Pasha, the new Ottoman Ambassador, a proposal respecting the cessions of territory to be made by the Porte to Greece. The cessions proposed were so insufficient, so widely different from those suggested at the Congress of Berlin, that he had absolutely refused to take them into consideration. He had been obliged to say to Safvet Pasha that he could not look upon them as serious, or enter into any discussion respecting them. He had, in fact, begged the Ambassador to remember that no debate on the question of a little more or a little less was possible, unless there was some approximation between the terms offered by the several parties to a bargain.

M. Waddington begged me to represent, on his behalf, to your Lordship that in fact no progress at all was being made, and that there was a great probability that the Greek question would be taken up by other Powers, if France and England delayed to come to an understanding upon it with each other. In fact further delay in bringing this question to a final settlement would, M. Waddington thought, be fraught with embarrassment and even with danger.

M. Waddington spoke with great earnestness, and did not conceal that he felt a very strong personal interest in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 11.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 24.)
North Camp, Aldershot, February 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a map of the frontier of Southern Roumelia, so far as the work was completed last year, and which is in my opinion reliable, possessing considerable accuracy in its details.

I regret that there should have been so much delay, but the delay has been principally due to the illness of Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E. since his return to England.

I attach a Memorandum of Lieutenant de Wolski, with whose observations I entirely agree.

On my return to England I had the honour of an interview with your Lordship, when I ventured to point out how desirable it would be to send on some days in advance of the Commission the survey party; were this done, I am assured that the work would be greatly facilitated.

Should Her Majesty's Government decide on the Roumelian Boundary Commission resuming its labours in the spring, and should the extra expenditure be allowed, it would be advantageous to attach another survey officer to the Commisson, who might undertake the topographical work only, whilst Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E., would perform the more scientific labour by taking theodolite and astronomical observations, so as to correct the Austrian map, which is in parts very inaccurate.

Were this suggestion acted on, we would be independent of the Russian and Turkish topographists, whose work, as a rule, is of an unreliable nature. But a boundary line without an accompanying survey is, in my opinion, very incomplete.

I inclose a brief report of notes taken by myself whilst travelling through the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

P.S.—Inclosure No. 1 being too large for the post, will be brought up and left by me at the Foreign Office.

R. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Memorandum on the Survey of the Boundary between Turkey and Eastern Roumelia during the month of November 1878.

THE British and Russian Commissioners alone were accompanied by a survey staff. The Russian Commissioner stated that he had orders to survey the line of frontier determined by the Commission, and he offered to place this survey at the disposal of the Commission. This offer was accepted.

The officer of the Russian Topographical Staff employed a plane table and telemeter. The distances were measured by this instrument on graduated rods about 12 feet long, carried by cavalry soldiers.

The British topographical officer was accompanied by a non-commissioned officer and two sappers from the Ordnance Survey, and was provided with a transit theodolite, compasses, and chains.

It was decided to limit the work of the British survey to reconnaissances in advance of the Commission where required, and to theodolite and compass observations at salient points on the frontier as a check on the accuracy of the Russian survey. This latter portion of the work has been successfully carried out, and has enabled me to prepare a fairly accurate map of the boundary.

The Austrian Staff map, on a scale of 1 : 300,000, is believed to be the best map of the country published. It was the one used at the Conference of Berlin by the military Delegates of the Powers, and on it they traced the boundary. In these parts, however, it is a mere reconnaissance sketch, and can only claim to be a fair eye sketch of the country.

The sketches made by the Russian Staff officer on the Commission are valuable for identification of the points fixed by the Commission, but having no reference to fixed points cannot be joined together to form a map without great distortion in general direction. In several instances it was found very inaccurate, more particularly in the vicinity of Derwish Tepe.

The Commission commenced operations in the field on the 10th November, 1878, by the measurement of a distance of 5 kilom. from the bridge at Mustapha Pasha. This work was undertaken simultaneously by the British and Russian survey parties. The British survey party planted a flag on the frontier—on the left bank of the Maritza—and shortly afterwards the Russian planted a lance some 300 yards short of this. After some discussion, the Commission accepted a point a few yards in advance of flag planted by the British party, where a small stream forms a natural feature. On replotting the work afterwards to a larger scale, it was found that this point is only 20 yards over the 5 kilom.

On the following day Major Hilmi Bey and I made a reconnaissance along the watershed between the Maritza and Demirhanli-dere rivers as far as point No. 8. Six points on the frontier were determined by compass observations from the previously measured distance between Mustapha Pasha and the frontier on the river. The Commission were meanwhile engaged in fixing the points 2 and 3. It will be seen from the map that the line decided on by the Commission returns towards Mustapha Pasha, and that there is a great divergence between it and the line marked on the Austrian map. Point No. 3 is only 4 kilom. distant from the bridge at Mustapha Pasha.

On the 12th, accompanied by the sappers on foot and a strong escort of cavalry, an effort was made to commence a regular survey with chain and compass from point No. 5. We were soon overtaken by the Commission on horseback, and as our halting-place was a long way off, the survey was suspended and the sappers sent on.

In a survey along a well-defined watershed, such as the one in question, with deep valleys on either side, it is by no means easy to find either a suitable place on which to measure a base line, or to work forward by covering the line with a network of triangles. I availed myself of the first opportunity which presented itself at Demirhanli. With a carefully measured base and rounds of angles with the theodolite, I was enabled to fix with a very fair amount of accuracy the principal points from Mustapha Pasha to Derwish Tepe.

Again, on arrival at Derwish Tepe on the 17th, a similar operation was undertaken. These observations, which were unfortunately impeded for several hours by a dense mist, enabled me to connect the previous stations with points in the vicinity of Buyuk Derbend.

After the Commission had fixed the boundary between the villages of Derwish Tepe and Soudjak, it became a question in what direction the frontier should be traced towards the Tundja. From Derwish Tepe to Buyuk Derbend there is no watershed or other natural feature defining the boundary. Not only is Buyuk Derbend not visible from Derwish Tepe, but we were led to believe that there was no ford at the Tundja nearer than the village of Vacup. Had it not been for the difficulty of reaching Buyuk Derbend, the best plan would obviously have been to have gone to Buyuk Derbend and observed back to Derwish Tepe, a prominent landmark in the country. The French Commissioner accordingly proposed to march on a line running 2 kilom. south of Buyuk Derbend, the direction being plotted from the Austrian map. As I was aware that the position of Derwish Tepe on the Austrian map was incorrect, Major Gordon desired me to correct the direction. A sketch was accordingly submitted to the Commission, showing a divergence of nearly fifteen degrees from the line proposed by the French Commissioner. This line was accepted, and run for some miles by Corporal Mill. It was ultimately continued as far as the Tundja.

The labours of the Commission will commence next working season at the Tundja,* and the question of running the boundary on this line up to Buyuk Derbend will be considered.† As an administrative frontier there can be no question but that the line of crests, Kizeldzik Baïr, Ciplak Tepe, and Heilyat, would be preferable. This would include the village of Hamsabegli, which would be excluded by the continuation of the line from the Tundja.

A glance at the map will show that several important points have been fixed in advance. These will prove useful starting-points for next season's work.

The latitude of several of the villages was taken. It is to be regretted that our chronometers arrived after our departure for the frontier. The latitude of Adrianople and Mustapha Pasha are required to enable a parallel of latitude to be plotted on the map.

It would be advisable for the survey party to be several days in advance of the Commission, not only to collect the necessary information as regards halting-places, fords, &c., but also for the purpose of preparing and sending back sketches of ground similar to that between Derwish Tepe and Buyuk Derbend, where a reconnaissance to scale is absolutely indispensable before the boundary can be properly determined.

It is to be hoped that our work next season will be less hampered by escorts than it was in November. Under the circumstances it was not possible to do more than we attempted.

(Signed) F. R. DE WOLSKI, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

February 22, 1879.

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* Probably at Bourgas, working westwards to the Tundja.—R. G.

† Perfectly correct. The only reason for accepting a straight line from point 42 to the Tundja was the absence of natural features. The Turkish villages of Tatarkioj is entirely destroyed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Memorandum accompanying Map of Southern portion of Boundary of Eastern Roumelia, from Mustapha Pasha to the Tundja.

MUSTAPHA PASHA, a town of from 4,000 to 5,000 inhabitants, the majority Bulgarian, Turkish quarter mostly destroyed, though a good number of the families have since returned.

This town is principally on the left bank of the River Maritza, and about 2 miles from the line of railway to Philippopolis; there is a good road to the railway station, crossing the river by a substantial masonry bridge.

The road leading up to the Maritza Valley on the left bank of the river is fairly good in dry weather, but not macadamized, and would probably be very heavy and difficult for wheeled traffic during winter.

There are numerous other roads leading to the different villages in the Demirhanli Valley, to Adrianople, &c., which are all of a similar class.

The houses are mostly constructed of mud or wood walls with tile roofs, some few buildings, such as the church and mosques, are of stone.

The neighbouring country is well cultivated.

Country carts drawn by bullocks or ponies are plentiful.

There are abundance of flocks of sheep and cattle, and good pasturage on the neighbouring hills.

The Valley of Demirhanli is separated from that of the Maritza by a range of hills or jutting-out spur, which quits the main range at Kuderlar Bair and runs almost due south towards, and terminating about 2 miles from, Mustapha Pasha.

This range is about 18 miles in length, and from various points along its extent, towards the west the Maritza Valley, for a considerable distance, is thoroughly seen into.

The slopes and spurs on either side are steep, and generally grass pasture lands, very little timber, or bush of any kind.

The elevation at its starting-point is close on 2,000 feet above the sea, and the highest peak above Mustapha Pasha about 700 feet.

The village of Gaksibeili lies on the western and not on the eastern slopes, as marked on the Austrian Staff map.; it is, or rather was, a Turkish village of some 150 houses; it has been entirely destroyed; twenty to thirty families have returned and built themselves straw huts.

Within a couple of miles is the village of Serahanli, about 150 houses. Population entirely Christian.

Gödelair is a village of about the same size—about 120 houses belonging to the Christians; formerly there was a Turkish quarter of from forty to fifty houses, all of which have been destroyed.

The families have not returned.

Demirhanli is situated about 3 miles from where the river of the same name takes its source; it is a village of about 200 houses, and the population entirely Bulgarian.

There is a very fair road to this village leading up the valley from Mustapha Pasha.

The road taken by the Commission keeps the high ground dividing the Valleys of Maritza and Demirhanli; for a hill road it is good, and at that time of the year (November) was passable for all arms.

There are various offshoots from it leading to the villages on either side; they are all more or less of a mountainous character.

The road skirts Kuderler Bair and then descends into the valley south of the Balkans, leading to the village of Ginourdan, a village of about 300 houses. Christian population. It is not marked on the Austrian map.

Kuderler Bair is connected with Sakar Bair by a lofty ridge, from which the valley between this range and the Balkans is generally overlooked.

From Sakar Bair the frontier-line takes a south-easterly direction, and connecting Sakar Bair with the mountain of Dervish Tepe, thence easterly across the Tundja Valley, leaving Soudjak to the north, in accordance with Article XIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

Kjiostinj, a Turkish village, only partially destroyed, situated on southern slopes of Sakar Bair in a valley formed by one of the affluents of the River Demirhanli.

Kaneur Alan, about 3 miles from the last named village, consisted of about 200 houses, all of which have been destroyed, and the families have not returned.

Village of Dervish Tepe—about 200 houses, all Christian—situated on the north-west slopes of hill of same name; the road connecting this village with Demirhanli is very bad. A fair road leads to Soudjak and thence up the Tundja Valley to Vakovo on the Tundja.

Soudjak, a large village, 200 houses, of some importance, possesses a monastery, the population Christian, and principally of Roman Catholic persuasion.

There is nothing left of Tartar Kioj but the ruins; judging from their extent it must have been a village of considerable size; the population was entirely Turkish. No families have returned.

The Valley of the Tundja, on the right bank almost as far west as Soudjak and north to Vakovo, is covered with thick scrubby bush, difficult to penetrate, except by tracks and the existing roads.

A direct road from Adrianople passing through Tartar Kioj to Vakovo is good, though not macadamized.

On it I saw several trains conveying supplies to the Russian army in the neighbourhood of Adrianople.

The River Tundja flows through steep and densely-wooded banks on either side from Vakovo to within 15 miles of Adrianople, where the country opens.

About 2 miles east of Tartar Kioj there is a ford, and another about 1½ miles higher up; both are difficult of access, no regular roads leading to them, and would only be passable after a continuance of dry weather.

I was informed that there was no other ford lower down the river. The first ford higher up the river is 10 to 12 miles, and at the village of Vakovo this ford is passable in dry weather for wheeled vehicles.

The river at this part is from 70 to 80 yards broad, stream sluggish and deep.

I did not see any boats, nor could I learn that any were obtainable on the river.

Except at Vakovo, and when the river once clears the hills, it would be difficult to convey boats to construct a bridge.

The hills on the left bank are higher than, and command those, on the right bank.

Vakovo is a well-built village consisting of about 110 houses, all Bulgarians.

Urembeyli stands about 2,000 feet above the sea, on the left bank of the Tundja, and about 5 miles from that river.

There are about 140 Bulgarian houses, and formerly there were thirty to forty Turkish houses; most of these latter have, however, been destroyed; of late a few Turkish families have returned.

This village occupies a commanding position, is not dominated by any neighbouring heights, and is the centre of several good roads, leading north up the Tundja Valley to Buyuk-Derbend, Bourgas, viâ Kaibilar, &c.

Hamsabeyli is about 5 miles to the south-west of Urembeyli, and lies in a valley at the foot of Chepslik Tepe. It was essentially a Turkish village, but is completely destroyed. Many of the families have since returned.

Geographically, and for administrative purposes, this village should not be in Eastern Roumelia.

Téké is a small Bulgarian village of about twenty houses close to the last named.

Buyuk-Derbend is important principally owing to its being the centre of a network of roads leading up the Tundja Valley to Adrianople, Bourgas, &c. The village itself lies in a hollow commanded by heights on all sides.

The road to Adrianople is a very good one, and its state of repair is far above the average. This may be accounted for by its being one of the principal lines of communication by which the Russians brought up supplies for their army about Adrianople. Though not macadamized I observed that for nearly 20 miles north of Adrianople heaps of stones had been collected on either side of the road for the purposes of repair, and gangs of workmen were employed for this purpose.

I have had to notice that throughout the country through which I travelled most of the Turkish villages had been destroyed.

Buyuk-Derbend was the first Bulgarian village that I had passed through which had suffered. Here the church and some forty to fifty houses had been destroyed, stated to have been done by the Turkish soldiers on their retreat from the Balkans.

In conclusion, the population in this part of Turkey appear to be mainly Bulgarian.

The Bulgarian villages are well built, the inhabitants in good circumstances, well housed, clothed, and fed, owners of considerable flocks of sheep and cattle; stores of grain in the villages; land in their vicinity under cultivation; pasture lands extensive and good.

In all the villages country carts available for ponies or oxen abundant.

I frequently saw large droves of small though hardy-looking horses.

Unless under influence, the Bulgarians appeared to be willing and obliging, readily

turning out of and clearing up their houses for the use of the Commissioners, bringing wood and water without a murmur, and, until the unfortunate incident of Buyuk-Derbend, offering no obstruction, and the inhabitants of this village themselves were as obliging as those of any of the other villages where we stopped.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
Brigade Major.

No. 12.

M. Campinéano to M. Bratiano.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Bratiano, March 1.)

Bucarest, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Février*, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

IL est à votre connaissance qu'avant la prise de possession de la Dobroudja par les autorités Princières de Roumanie, M. Bratiano, Président du Conseil des Ministres, et M. Cogalnicéano, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, entrèrent en rapports directs avec la Commission chargée, en vertu de l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin, de fixer sur les lieux la ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja.

A cette occasion, M. le Président du Conseil crut devoir déclarer, en présence de tous les Commissaires, et par conséquent du Commissaire Impérial Russe, qu'il était indispensable de désigner la ligne de séparation entre le nouveau territoire Roumain et la Bulgarie. Cette déclaration, fondée sur la nécessité de connaître exactement les limites de la province annexée, et surtout son point d'attache au reste du pays, n'a soulevé alors aucune objection.

Au début de l'occupation, l'ignorance mutuelle des inflexions de détail du tracé topographique amena des empiétements réciproques involontaires. Le Gouvernement Princier, instruit des légères erreurs de fait commises par les troupes Roumaines, s'empressa de leur donner l'ordre de se retirer et de se tenir sur la ligne fixée par la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, dont il considérait l'œuvre comme définitive et comme définitivement acquise aux deux pays limitrophes.

C'était prouver dès lors avec une spontanéité et une bonne foi dont il ne s'est jamais départi, qu'il ne nourrissait aucune idée d'usurpation sur les confins légitimes de la Bulgarie.

En dehors de ces confins et en deçà de la frontière Roumaine, c'est-à-dire dans la zone d'occupation normale des autorités Princières, se trouvait Arab-Tabia, point resté inoccupé militairement depuis le départ des armées Ottomanes, qui y avaient élevé, pendant la guerre, des travaux de défense.

A la date du $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier dernier, quatre soldats Russes campaient à Arab-Tabia, à titre non pas d'occupants, mais de gardiens d'un dépôt de matériel Ottoman laissé sur les lieux.

Un détachement Roumain, composé de seize hommes d'infanterie, vint s'installer auprès d'eux.

Le $\frac{21\text{ Janvier}}{2\text{ Février}}$, c'est-à-dire après onze jours de pourparlers concernant le matériel Ottoman, deux officiers—l'un Russe, l'autre Ottoman, remirent le dépôt à la garde du chef du détachement Roumain.

Il ressort clairement de la présence de l'officier Ottoman qu'il s'agissait non d'un changement ou d'une succession d'occupation, mais d'une simple mesure conservatoire, d'une pure formalité d'inventaire relative au matériel Ottoman.

En effet, dès l'accomplissement de cette formalité, les soldats Russes quittèrent leur campement, sans que la prise de possession d'Arab-Tabia par le détachement Roumain, prise de possession datant déjà de onze jours, eût provoqué jusque-là la moindre protestation ou même la moindre objection.

La courtoisie et la durée des rapports entre l'officier Russe et l'officier Roumain prouvent hautement qu'il n'y a pas eu, de la part de la Roumanie, comme il a été allégué ultérieurement, emploi de la force ou de la surprise.

Telle est, réduite à son caractère réel, l'occupation d'Arab-Tabia par les troupes Roumaines.

Etait-il à prévoir que cette occupation serait signalée comme un acte d'agression contre l'armée Russe, comme une offense au corps en garnison à Silistrie ?

Etait-il admissible que l'armée Roumaine eût oublié la prudence la plus élémentaire et qu'elle eût pu se proposer d'offenser l'armée d'une Grande Puissance voisine ?

Le Gouvernement Princier, fermement convaincu qu'il se conformait aux clauses du Traité de Berlin, et invité à prendre possession de la Dobroudja, a procédé à l'installation de ses autorités en cette province dans les limites fixées par une Commission exécutive de l'acte Européen, et suivant le cours naturel des applications qu'il comportait.

Je vous ai exposé, M. le Ministre, dans ma note Circulaire du $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier dernier, les raisons de tout ordre qui faisaient une loi au Gouvernement Princier d'exercer sa surveillance pratique sur une frontière déjà déterminée.

Parmi ces raisons figuraient en première ligne les nécessités du régime douanier, les droits du fisc, et l'intérêt même des populations locales, qu'une longue incertitude au sujet des autorités desquelles elles devaient relever laissait flottantes, et maintenant dans un état de malaise moralement pénible, matériellement préjudiciable.

Cependant l'occupation d'Arab-Tabia, si naturelle, si légitime qu'elle fût, a soulevé de la part du Gouvernement Impérial Russe de vives réclamations.

Informé de l'interprétation donnée par le Gouvernement Impérial à un détail qui, très-simple lui-même, prenait, contre toute attente, les proportions d'un incident, le Cabinet Princier, tant à Bucarest que par votre entremise, s'est empressé d'offrir les explications les plus positives

Il a certifié que la présence de quelques soldats Roumains à Arab-Tabia n'avait, ni dans l'intention ni dans le fait, aucun caractère de nature à éveiller les moindres susceptibilités ou à porter le moindre ombrage. Il a attesté que la règle constante de sa conduite avait été et restait de se conformer, en ce qui le concernait, à une exécution strictement fidèle du Traité de Berlin. Il s'est engagé enfin à s'incliner devant telle décision qu'adopteraient les Puissances à l'égard d'Arab-Tabia.

C'est animé du même esprit que le Gouvernement Princier, devant la persistance de la Russie, se croit aujourd'hui à même d'offrir à l'Europe un nouveau gage de son esprit de conciliation.

C'est afin de détruire des suspicions non-fondées, et de montrer une fois de plus qu'il s'attache de tout son pouvoir, non-seulement à ne pas susciter, mais encore à écarter, dans la mesure de ses moyens, la moindre difficulté au sujet de la prompte exécution du Traité de Berlin, qu'il vient de faire parvenir l'ordre au détachement Roumain de se retirer d'Arab-Tabia.

Il se flatte que ce retrait n'aura d'autre résultat que de rendre le point en question aux conditions de sa situation antérieure, et n'impliquera pas une renociation, même temporaire à l'exercice des droits d'administration civile des autorités de la Dobroudja.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance du Cabinet Anglais vous aurez soin, M. le Ministre, de vous référer aux communications dont vous avez été chargé.

Vous voudrez bien en conséquence établir de nouveau que la solution actuelle a un caractère essentiellement provisoire, et ne saurait préjuger en rien la solution définitive.

Le Cabinet Princier a le ferme espoir que les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin voudront bien ne pas différer leur haute approbation à l'œuvre de la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, si scrupuleuse à suivre les prescriptions de ce Traité, dans sa lettre et dans son esprit.

Il est également persuadé que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, en raison de la déférence que la Roumanie lui a témoignée si souvent et vient de lui témoigner encore, n'hésitera plus à se rallier à l'opinion unanime des autres Puissances co-signataires.

Vous êtes autorisé à donner lecture et copie de la présente dépêche à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Angleterre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. CAMPINÉANO.

No. 13.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 1, 1879.

MR. TOUJOROFF is very anxious to get the Firman to take back his Protestants to Bansco [group wrong], Ja, and Lesnitza. He wishes to start next Monday evening. He has received letters from Doubnitza and Djumaia, saying that refugees are dying of cold and starvation. These want transport to return to Raslog, and they hope to receive some assurances that they will not be molested by the Turkish authorities on account of past transactions.

I shall ask Mr. Wulpole to accompany Mr. Toujoroff, and shall send some money with him.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 14.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 1, 1879.

AT Sir H. Wolff's request General Dickson will go to Philippopolis on Wednesday next.

No. 15.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 1, 1879.

THE Russian Ambassador sent a note to the Porte yesterday protesting against the Financial Convention, on the grounds, first, that it pledged revenues which had not [*sic*] been previously pledged to all; secondly, that Russia could not consent to financial administration being placed in the hands of certain Powers to the exclusion of others.

The first point is based on the declaration of Count Schouvaloff in the XIth Protocol, Blue-book, page 171.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1879.

THE French story alluded to in your telegram No. 71 of yesterday is a pure invention.

I have sent to Paris your information as to Ring's designs.

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1879.

I HAVE telegraphed to you this day to contradict the report mentioned in your telegraphic despatch No. 71 of yesterday's date, to the effect that I had proposed that the Commission of which you are a member should visit Macedonia. From whatever source the French Commissioners may have received this story, it is a pure invention.

I have communicated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris the information given in your previous telegram No. 64 as to the desire of the French Commissioners to obtain the nomination of a Frenchman as Governor-General of the province, and to prolong the sittings of the Commission beyond the term fixed for the Russian evacuation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1879.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 25th ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, informing him that Count Karolyi, acting upon the instructions he had received from Count Andrassy, had spoken to me very seriously with regard to the attitude which, according to the reports which reached the Austro-Hungarian Government, had been assumed by you on political questions since your arrival in Bulgaria.*

I have to state to you that similar complaints have been addressed to me by the Ottoman Ambassador under instructions from his Government.

* To Sir H. Elliot, No. 113.

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The policy at present pursued by Her Majesty's Government is parallel to that pursued by Austria and Turkey. It is, consequently, of much importance, in order to ensure complete and loyal co-operation, that the Governments of those countries should feel confident that they may, as a rule, count on the assistance of Her Majesty's Representatives. You will therefore readily perceive that the impression which your proceedings have left upon the minds of the Foreign Ministers of these two Courts is, unfortunately, the very reverse of that which, in the interests of the English policy, was to be desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 21, 1879.

IN giving me the information respecting the proceedings of the Turco-Greek Commission at Prevesa, which I reported to your Lordship in my preceding number, dated yesterday, M. Delyanni asked me what my opinion was of the present aspect of the negotiations.

I said that it certainly appeared to me that the Porte showed a desire to prolong them, but with what object I was unable to say.

It has been generally reported here that the cause of the obstacles put by the Porte in the way of a final settlement of the question of the new Turco-Greek frontier is that some negotiations are going on at Constantinople between the Ottoman and French Governments on the subject, and that before these are concluded and the Porte has ascertained if any and what amount of pressure France is disposed to bring to bear in favour of Greece, no decision will be come to by the former as to the concessions it will consent to make to Greece.

As I am without information in regard to the views of Her Majesty's Government at this moment on the subject of the extension of the Greek frontier, beyond what occurred during the Conferences at Berlin, I have been unable, in answer to repeated inquiries addressed to me by members of the Greek Government and others respecting them, to say more than that Her Majesty's Government desired to see the matter amicably settled, and recommended patience and a peaceable and conciliatory attitude towards Turkey.

I consider that the best chance the Greeks have of an extension of their frontier is to be found in the engagement taken by the Great Powers at Berlin to mediate, in case the two parties most directly interested should fail to come to an understanding, of which there appears to be little prospect.

The Greek Government show a strong desire to know the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and how far they may count on its support, but hitherto I have not been able to state them, except in the general sense above-mentioned.

I should be glad, if your Lordship sees no objection, to receive instructions as to the language I should hold in regard to this question as it stands, the circumstances being no longer the same as when your Lordship held a conversation with M. Gennadius, which was communicated to me in your despatch No. 206 of the 24th October last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 20.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 250 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I mentioned last night to M. Waddington the report that the Russian Government had hopes of getting a loan from French bankers by the help of the French Government.

M. Waddington said that as regarded the help of the French Government, there was not the slightest foundation for such a report.

Russia might or might not be seeking to obtain a loan from French capitalists. She was very probably making endeavours to raise money at Paris, as well as at Berlin and

in other capitals. But the French Government had nothing to do with the matter. They had received no application for help, and had certainly given none. It was a matter in which the French Government could not intervene. Russia was a friendly Power, and French capitalists had a right to lend her money if they chose to do so; but it was, he repeated, a matter in which the French Government could take no part. Frenchmen were by law free to act as they pleased with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 21.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 12, 1879.

I VENTURE to trouble your Lordship with some remarks on the subject of Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 20, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 43 of the 30th ultimo.

In doing so, I hoped to be acquitted of any desire to enter into a controversy with Her Majesty's Ambassador, whose advice, support, and kind offices have done much to lighten my task.

But, agreeing as I do in much of His Excellency's despatch, I wish to explain points on which perhaps I have hitherto not been sufficiently clear.

The first point raised by Sir H. Layard is that of the "indigénat," Protocol No. 14. His Excellency asks: "Why should the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia be placed on a footing different from that of all other subjects of the Sultan, who are thus to be excluded, except on the condition of nationalizing themselves by a year's residence, from participating in the privileges granted to that province?"

On this head I would wish to submit that we found great difficulty in our terminology to describe the condition of those really belonging to the province. An "indigène" must be an Ottoman subject, natural born or naturalized. The "indigénat" is forfeited if the "indigène" gives up his Ottoman nationality. The only restriction is that before obtaining access to the franchise, or to certain public functions, an Ottoman subject must have resided a year in the province. This is a condition which exists in every borough in England.

A borough voter is an "indigène." To obtain the "indigénat" he must be a British subject, and have resided a year in the borough before being admitted to the franchise, or to the discharge of municipal functions. To my mind, and to that of the majority of my colleagues, this provision was valuable, not as against the Ottoman Government, but as against the interference of Bulgarians from the north of the Balkans in the affairs of Eastern Roumelia.

In respect to the use of the languages, your Lordship will perceive that the Commission was in a considerable difficulty, though anxious to obtain as great advantages as possible for the Greeks.

The 8th Protocol of the Definitive Conference of Constantinople, on this head, merely lays down the following formula:—

"Usage de la langue du pays dans les Tribunaux et l'Administration également avec le Turc."

With this only to guide us, we endeavoured to obtain what was feasible for the Greeks.

The Greeks, though representing very much the intelligent and enterprising part of the community, are unfortunately in a very small numerical minority. They are grouped in the towns. In some parts of the country there are none whatever.

It would be impossible, therefore, to establish that the Greek should be in use everywhere, and the rule laid down by the Commission seemed to me an equitable compromise. When we come again to the question, I shall endeavour to obtain further privileges, if possible, for the Greeks; but your Lordship will see how difficult it is to arrive at any solution at all, while the opposition of a single Power serves as an absolute veto, and while the Power that usually exercises this right is one interested in maintaining a state of confusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 22.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 13, 1879.

YESTERDAY I made the motion of which I had given notice, as mentioned in my telegram No. 40 of the 10th instant. I preceded the motion by some remarks, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, as well as one of the motion itself.

The German Commissioner abstained from discussing it, as being unable to pledge his Government to a reconsideration later of the Statute we are now preparing.

The Austrian and Italian Commissioners while willing to accept absolutely the principle of a majority for our decisions, declined affixing to it any conditions.

The Russian Commissioners objected to the principle of the majority in any case.

I rejoined that I had no intention of limiting the duration of the Statute, as had been suggested by some of the speakers. It would be impossible to declare the eternity of the project we were preparing, and I thought we should be perfectly justified in fixing the mode as well as the term of revision. In doing so, I thought though we might not approve certain proposals, we might conscientiously accept them as temporary measures when they met with the sanction of a majority of our colleagues, whose opinions we were bound to respect. I did not look upon our proposals as being limited to any time, but I gave those interested the machinery for readjusting our scheme in such parts as might be found necessary. I thought that the proposal was conciliatory, and offered a practical means of abridging our work. As, however, it did not meet with favour I withdrew it. I had not expected that it would be accepted, but I consider myself bound to accumulate as many proofs as possible of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to offer an easy solution of our growing embarrassments.

I next proposed the second motion of which I had given notice, and which I later divided into two, and then withdrew in deference to the opposition of members of the Commission, who declared themselves without powers. Copy of this motion is inclosed.

Baron de Ring proposed as an amendment that the members of the Commission should apply to their Ambassadors to direct the Military Attachés to proceed to this place, to assist us in the Chapters on the militia and gendarmerie. His proposal was accepted by the French and Austrian Commissioners and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Preface to Motion.

LA proposition que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre appréciation n'a été conçue que dans le but d'arriver dans le plus bref délai à la solution de notre tâche.

Nous n'avons qu'un seul objet en vue: de donner ici un ensemble d'institutions basées sur des données équitables et populaires et qui, d'après les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, assureraient à cette province un Gouvernement stable, ainsi qu'une complète sécurité.

Je crois que chacun de nous, d'après ses appréciations respectives, a franchement reconnu l'importance de notre mission et a fait son possible pour remplir son mandat avec la plus grande impartialité.

Mais le veto absolu dont nous pouvons chacun user a eu jusqu'à présent pour résultat une lenteur regrettable dans nos travaux, lésant ainsi en quelque sorte les intérêts importants qui se trouvent en suspens en attendant notre Rapport.

Je crois qu'une des raisons pour lesquelles on s'est prévalu plus d'une fois de ce veto, c'est la difficulté dans laquelle nous nous sommes trouvés de consulter d'une façon officielle les vœux de la population, et l'hésitation que nous éprouvons de lui imposer, pendant une période indéfinie, des institutions, à l'élaboration desquelles elle n'a pas participé. C'est pour éviter cette difficulté que je vous soumets ma proposition. Un projet élaboré par les représentants des Puissances ne saurait amener aucune cause de désordre, ou de danger parmi ses populations, dans un laps de temps aussi bref, car il ne s'agit en effet que de quatre années. Tout au plus les lacunes qui

pourraient s'y trouver ne sauraient produire en tout cas qu'un embarras passager. Le projet ne serait pas immuable, mais devrait, d'après ma proposition, être soumis de nouveau au bout de quatre ans à l'appréciation du Gouverneur-Général et du peuple. Ce laps de temps écoulé, l'autorité du pays et les représentants de la population auraient ainsi acquis une expérience approfondie, et se rendraient compte des changements et des amendements vraiment désirés par le pays.

En agissant de cette façon, je crois que nous obtiendrions un projet homogène et qui aurait au moins une connexité logique. Ce projet aurait pour base l'opinion et la responsabilité de notre Assemblée, dont les paroles seront bien pesées par les Gouvernements qui certes ne voudraient pas commettre des injustices, ni compromettre l'utilité de leur œuvre.

Dès que le projet serait adopté par la majorité de la Commission, chaque Commissaire pourrait individuellement appeler l'attention de son Gouvernement, sur l'une ou l'autre décision qui lui paraîtrait inacceptable; mais nous pourrions considérablement abréger et faciliter le rôle des Gouvernements, en leur soumettant une œuvre complète, au lieu d'un travail maljoint, décousu, et rempli de lacunes, de réserves, et de contradictions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Motion respecting Voting by Majority.

CONSIDÉRANT la difficulté qu'il y a d'arriver à des résolutions quand ces résolutions, pour être obligatoires, doivent être prise à l'unanimité.

La Commission décide d'accepter le principe de la majorité pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique. En même temps elle arrête que le Statut Organique qu'elle élabore en ce moment sera révisé par le Gouverneur-Général de concert avec l'Assemblée Provinciale, quand celle-ci aura été entièrement renouvelée, c'est-à-dire après deux élections de renouvellement, et que le Statut ainsi révisé sera soumis par la Sublime Porte à l'acceptation des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin, représentées par leurs Ambassadeurs et Ministres à Constantinople.

Philippopoli, le 10 Février, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Motion respecting Military Commission.

LA Commission décide de prier les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein de nommer une Commission militaire chargée de lui apporter le concours de ses lumières pour l'organisation de la milice et de la gendarmerie, ainsi que pour toutes les mesures à prendre pour prévenir les désordres qui pourraient éclater après le départ des forces Russes à l'époque fixée par le Traité de Berlin pour l'évacuation définitive de la province.

Philippopoli, le 10 Février, 1879.

No. 23.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, February 13, 1879.

My Lord,

ON returning from the Commission yesterday, Baron de Ring, who was in a state of great excitement, said that it was evident the Russians were determined that we should come to no arrangement, and that our labours were becoming absurd. Nothing could now occur but a war, or the complete execution of the programme San Stefano.

Whatever assurances the Russians might have given as to evacuation in May, would be at best what he described as a "fausse sortie," to be followed by their return or an inevitable anarchy. Unless any of the Powers were determined to go to war, the Russians would carry everything before them. He received no instructions

except, what he described as platonic, about the gendarmerie, and the necessity of expediting our work.

My belief is that both M. de Ring and M. de Coutouly are much under the influence of M. Fournier, whose language has already been reported to your Lordship by Sir Henry Layard. They think to compensate themselves for what they call the "politique d'effacement" of M. Waddington by establishing a French influence amongst the Bulgarians; and, though indignant at the conduct of the Russians, they will not take such an attitude against Russian proposals as might compromise French influence with the Bulgarian population. They think that by encouraging Bulgarian aspirations they may substitute French for Russian influence in the Balkan Peninsula.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 24.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 73.)

Philippopolis, February 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 46 of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed by an employé of the Directoin of Finance at Has-keui to M. Schmidt, describing the treatment he has experienced at that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 24.

M. Stéfanoff to M. Schmidt.

Le $\frac{26 \text{ Janvier}}{13 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Conformément à votre ordre du 25 courant, je me suis trouvé à Has-keui le 26, et après avoir remis votre lettre au Chef de l'Arrondissement, j'ai pris possession de mon poste.

Du 26 au 31 j'ai travaillé tranquillement dans mon bureau; mais le 30 une foule, composé d'habitants de la ville et des environs, s'est réunie à l'école des filles, où ces hommes ont décidé de faire une manifestation pour s'opposer à l'envoi à la Caisse de Has-keui d'un employé de la Direction des Finances.

Ils sont venus en criant à la Caisse, demandant pour que je sorte, afin qu'ils puissent me faire partir pour Philippopoli. Le Chef de l'Arrondissement, après avoir pris toutes les mesures pour disperser la foule, a eu toutes les peines du monde à y parvenir.

Lorsqu'ils se sont emparés de ma personne, ils me menaçaient de me faire un mauvais coup, si je ne partais pas immédiatement là d'où j'étais venu, car ils ne voulaient pas des employés de la Direction. Le Chef de l'Arrondissement a fait tout son possible pour me délivrer de leurs mains.

(Signé) STÉFANOFF.

No. 25.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 74.)

Philippopoli, February 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 34th Protocol.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Protocole No. 34.—Seance du $\frac{25 \text{ Janvier}}{6 \text{ Février}}$ 1879 (12 *Sepher*, 1296), *a la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sur la proposition d'Abro Effendi, la Commission vote des remercîments au Colonel Schepelew pour l'impartialité et le tact avec lequel il a conduit les débats pendant sa présidence.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Colonel Schepelew si le Gouverneur-Général a répondu à la lettre que le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne a adressée le $\frac{13}{25}$ Janvier, 1879, à son Excellence au sujet de la Caisse spéciale.

Le Colonel Schepelew répond négativement.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff constate que dans une conversation qu'il a eue la veille avec le Général Todleben, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Russe, ce dernier lui a dit que le Colonel Schepelew était allé, sur son invitation, à Sophia, afin de régler la question de la Caisse réservée.

Le Colonel Schepelew dit qu'il ne conteste pas ce fait, mais que le Prince Dondoukoff l'avait antérieurement engagé aussi à se rendre à Sophia.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique demande aux Délégués de Russie s'il est exact que l'autorité locale ait l'intention de convertir en théâtre le Téké des Derviches Tourneurs qui existe à Philippopoli: "Comme cet établissement est vakouf," ajoute Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, "un pareil acte porterait atteinte au droit de la Commission d'administrer les finances de la province."

Les Commissaires de Russie répondent qu'ils n'ont aucune connaissance du bruit signalé par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff et que, d'ailleurs, la question ne concerne en rien la Commission. Si le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne désire obtenir à ce sujet des informations, il peut s'adresser aux autorités de la ville.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff déclare qu'il a le droit de signaler à ses collègues les illégalités qui se commettent dans le pays au détriment de la Commission, et qu'il usera de ce droit tant qu'il sera à Philippopoli.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique fait ensuite la communication suivante:—

"A la suite d'une correspondance que j'avais eue avec le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale et que j'ai portée à la connaissance de la Commission à la vingt-neuvième séance, j'ai envoyé au Général Stolipine une traduction de la Pétition No. 63, faite par M. Séon. Vous vous souvenez, Messieurs, que le Procureur près la Cour

martiale de Philippopoli est venu me dire que cette traduction n'était pas fidèle et me demander le texte de la pétition. M. Séon m'a déclaré que sa traduction est en tous points conforme à l'original, que j'ai d'ailleurs transmis au Gouverneur-Général."

Abro Effendi, au nom de la Sublime Porte, donne lecture de la déclaration suivante:—

"Vous savez, Messieurs, que les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale n'ont aucun droit de participer aux élections et à l'œuvre de l'Assemblée des Notables de la Bulgarie, prévues par les Articles 3 et 4 du Traité de Berlin, et que, s'ils venaient à y prendre part, ce fait constituerait une atteinte au dit Traité, atteinte à laquelle aucun de nous ne voudrait, sans doute, acquiescer.

"Contrairement à la situation créée par le Traité de Berlin à la nouvelle province que nous sommes spécialement chargés d'organiser, des élections viennent d'être faites ici de Députés chargés de représenter les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale au sein de l'Assemblée de Tirnova. Ces élections ont eu pour résultat la nomination de MM. Stoiloff, Danoff et Caradjoff, ce dernier en remplacement du Dr. Rasco, démissionnaire.

"En présence de ce fait illégal, nous sommes autorisés à déclarer formellement que si les Députés de la Roumélie Orientale prenaient part aux élections et généralement aux travaux de l'Assemblée de Tirnova, le résultat de ces élections et de ces travaux serait considéré par le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman comme illégal, et par conséquent comme non avenu."

Les Commissaires de Russie déclarent qu'à leur avis la communication qui vient d'être faite par les Commissaires Ottomans a trait à une question qui ne touche en rien le double mandat de la Commission d'élaborer le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale et d'administrer les finances de cette province.

Abro Effendi répond qui si les Commissaires Ottomans ont fait la déclaration qu'on vient d'entendre, c'est que les Députés Rouméliotes partent de Philippopoli au vu et su des autorités qui ont elles-mêmes proclamé l'état de siége dans le pays.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit que la question signalée par les Commissaires de Turquie regarde directement la Commission, car l'envoi de Députés Rouméliotes à l'Assemblée de Tirnova est une illégalité de plus ajoutée à celles qui se commettent tous les jours sous les yeux des Commissaires Européens, et dont l'armement et enrôlement de la population (qui n'est pourtant menacée d'aucune agression), constituent un exemple frappant.

M. de Kallay. "Si le fait signalé par MM. les Commissaires de Turquie est exact, il intéresse beaucoup la Commission. Le rôle des Députés Rouméliotes à l'Assemblée de Tirnova nous est indifférent; mais si la province envoie des Délégues prendre part aux travaux qui ont pour but l'organisation de la Bulgarie, ce fait augmentera encore les difficultés auxquelles se heurte sans cesse la Commission dans l'accomplissement de sa double tâche. Si la population est entretenue dans la conviction qu'elle a le droit et le pouvoir d'envoyer des Députés dans la Principauté, qui, d'après le Traité de Berlin, est séparée de la province, l'idée que ce Traité n'existe pas ou ne sera jamais exécuté se répandra de plus en plus. Il est évident qu'une conviction de ce genre est fort nuisible à nos travaux et à notre Administration Financière."

Le Prince Tzeretelew demande que la Commission passe à l'ordre du jour.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Chapitre V.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 20 amendé en conférence privée.

"III.—*Régime de l'Assemblée.*

"Article 20. L'Assemblée Provinciale se réunit de droit à Philippopoli, en Session ordinaire, chaque année, le deuxième Lundi du mois d'Octobre, selon le Calendrier Julien (v.s.).

"La Session ordinaire dure deux mois au plus.

"La clôture en est prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général à l'expiration du terme de deux mois, ou avant l'expiration de ce terme, lorsqu'il est constaté, par une déclaration des membres du bureau, que l'Assemblée a épuisé son ordre du jour.

"Le Gouverneur-Général ouvre et il clôt chaque Session, soit en personne, soit par l'organe d'un Délégué spécial.

"Si le Gouverneur-Général n'exerce pas ces droits, c'est le Doyen d'âge qui prononce l'ouverture et le Président qui prononce la clôture de la Session."

Cet Article est adopté par la Commission, sauf le dernier alinéa, sur lequel les

Délégués d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie réservent leur vote. L'Article entier reste ouvert.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 21 :—

"Article 21. L'Assemblée Provinciale peut être convoquée en Session extraordinaire par le Gouverneur-Général pour un ou plusieurs objets déterminés.

"Le commencement et la fin de la Session extraordinaire sont fixés par l'Arrêté de Convocation.

"Le Gouverneur-Général rend immédiatement compte de la convocation à la Sublime Porte."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 22 :—

"Article 22. Le Gouverneur-Général peut, au cours d'une Session ordinaire proroger une fois l'Assemblée Provinciale; mais il doit, en même temps, motiver la prorogation et en fixer le terme, lequel ne peut excéder deux mois.

"Il doit immédiatement rendre compte de cette mesure à la Sublime Porte."

Cet Article est adopté par la Commission.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie déclarent qu'en votant pour l'Article 22, ils revendiquent le droit de dissolution de l'Assemblée par le Gouverneur-Général.

Le Président lit l'Article 23 :—

"Article 23. L'Assemblée a un Président choisi au commencement de chaque Session et pour sa durée par le Gouverneur-Général, entre trois candidats élus par l'Assemblée.

"Elle a deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires élus par elle, pour chaque Session, aussitot après l'installation du Président.

"Jusqu'à l'installation du Président nommé par le Gouverneur-Général, l'Assemblée est présidée par son Doyen d'âge.

"Jusqu'à l'installation des Secrétaires élus, leurs fonctions sont remplies par les deux plus jeunes membres présents."

Les Commissaires de Russie propose l'amendement suivant au premier alinéa de l'Article 23 :—

"L'Assemblée a un Président choisi au commencement de chaque Session et pour sa durée par le Gouverneur-Général entre deux candidats élus par l'Assemblée."

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie acceptent l'amendement.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie le rejettent.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, tout en votant contre l'amendement de ses collègues de Russie, se déclare prêt à abandonner le choix du Vice-Président à l'Assemblée, si on accepte la liste de trois candidats pour le choix du Président.

L'amendement n'est pas adopté.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le premier alinéa de l'Article 23 :—

"Article 23. L'Assemblée a un Président choisi au commencement de chaque Session et pour sa durée par le Gouverneur-Général entre trois candidats élus par l'Assemblée.

Six Commissaires votent pour l'alinéa.

Les Délégués de Russie, tout en rejetant le chiffre de trois candidats présenté aux choix du Gouverneur-Général pour désigner parmi eux le Président de l'Assemblée votent pour l'alinéa.

En conséquence l'alinéa est accepté, mais le nombre des candidats n'est pas fixé.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 23 :—

"Elle a deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires élus par elle pour chaque Session aussitôt après l'installation du Président."

Cet alinéa est accepté par cinq Commissaires.

Les Délégués de la Grande Bretagne et de *Turquie* déclarent qu'ils ne pourront voter

cet alinéa, tant que la liste de trois candidats, dont il est question dans le premier alinéa, ne sera pas acceptée par la Commission.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les troisième et quatrième alinéas de l'Article 23 :—

"Jusqu'à l'installation du Président nommé par le Gouverneur-Général l'Assemblée est présidée par son doyen d'âge.

"Jusqu'à l'installation des Secrétaires élus, leurs fonctions sont remplies par les deux plus jeunes membres présents."

Ces alinéas sont acceptés par tous les Commissaires.

Le Président lit l'Article 24 :—

"Art. 24. Pour que l'Assemblée délibère valablement, la présence de la moitié au moins de ses membres est nécessaire. Les délibérations sont prises à la majorité absolue des membres présents.

"En cas de partage des votes, la proposition en délibération est rejetée.

"Pour les élections, la majorité absolue est nécessaire au premier tour de scrutin; la majorité relative suffit au second tour.

"Quand il s'agit d'apporter des changements aux dispositions d'une loi générale de l'Empire l'Assemblée ne peut valablement délibérer et voter que si les trois quarts de ses membres sont présents, et dans ce cas une majorité des trois quarts des votants est requise."

Les premier, deuxième et troisième alinéas de cet Article, mis aux voix par le Président, sont acceptés par la Commission.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique propose l'amendement suivant au quatrième alinéa de l'Article 24 :—

"Une majorité des cinq huitièmes des membres présents est nécessaire quand il s'agit de voter une loi portant modification à une loi générale de l'Empire."

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne voit pas pourquoi l'Assemblée Provinciale changerait sa procédure, quand il s'agirait de modifier une loi générale de l'Empire en tant qu'elle s'applique à la province :—"Le droit d'accepter ou de rejeter les lois appartenant en définitif au Sultan, nous ne ferions," dit-il, "en restreignant dans cette question les droits de l'Assemblée, que mettre des entraves à la libre expression des sentiments de la population."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff est d'avis que l'on ne devrait soumettre au Sultan une modification à une loi de l'Empire que lorsque la chose apparaîtrait comme absolument nécessaire. Tel ne serait pas le cas pour les lois d'un intérêt purement local, dont le meilleur juge sera certainement l'Assemblée elle-même. Par contre, il serait désirable d'empêcher d'avance que, dans les questions intéressant non-seulement la Roumélie Orientale, mais aussi jusqu'à un certain point le reste de l'Empire, se produisent ce qu'on appelle en Anglais des "catch divisions," ou majorités de par hasard.

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit que la disposition en vertu de laquelle l'Assemblée Provinciale est autorisée à apporter des changements dans les lois de l'Empire ne sera appliquée que fort peu, et a une importance secondaire. Il se déclare prêt à accepter l'amendement de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, afin de ne pas entraver l'œuvre de la Commission.

L'amendement de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, mis aux voix, est ensuite adopté par la Commission.

Le Président lit et met aux voix les Articles 25, 26, et 27 :—

"Art. 25. Chaque membre de l'Assemblée émet son vote en personne. Les votes sont émis, soit par assis et levé, soit par réponses à l'appel nominal.

"Un projet de loi peut être adopté qu'après avoir été voté Article par Article.

"Art. 26. La police intérieure de l'Assemblée est exercée par son Président.

"Si un membre de l'Assemblée se sert d'expressions offensantes pour la personne ou la famille du Sultan, pour le Gouverneur-Général, ou pour l'Assemblée elle-même, le Président le rappelle à l'ordre en l'invitant à se retracter. En cas de refus ou de récidive, le Président prononce la censure, qui entraîne pour le censuré l'obligation de faire des excuses à l'Assemblée. Si le Membre censuré s'y refuse, le Président lève la séance, et propose à la séance suivante que ce Membre soit exclu de l'Assemblée pour un temps déterminé ne dépassant la durée de la Session.

"Nul, si ce n'est les agents de la force publique chargés de la garde

l'Assemblée, ne peut entrer avec une arme quelconque dans l'enceinte du bâtiment réservé aux séances.

"Article 27. Les séances de l'Assemblée Provinciale sont publiques.

"Si l'ordre est troublé dans les Tribunes, le Président a le droit de les faire évacuer.

"Les pétitions ne peuvent être présentées à l'Assemblée par les pétitionnaires. Elles sont présentées par un Membre de l'Assemblée ou remises au Président qui en donne communication en séance.

"L'Assemblée se forme en Comité Secret, si la demande en est faite par les membres du bureau ou par le tiers au moins des membres présents."

La Commission adopte ces trois Articles.

Le Président lit l'Article 28 :

"Article 28. Les Membres de l'Assemblée, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, ont les mêmes droits, les mêmes prérogatives, et les mêmes devoirs. Ils ne peuvent être poursuivis à raison de leur vote ou dans leur abstention, ainsi que dans l'expression de leurs opinions. Ils ne peuvent être poursuivis à raison de leurs discours, comme aussi à raison de leurs propositions écrites ou des Rapports par eux rédigés, que sur la demande du Gouverneur-Général relevant dans le discours ou dans l'écrit un crime caractérisé par la loi, et si la poursuite est autorisée par l'Assemblée.

"Aucune poursuite à fin pénale pour faits étrangers à leurs fonctions ne peut être intentée contre eux pendant la durée d'une Session, qui si elle est autorisée par l'Assemblée sur la demande du Ministère Public près la Cour Supérieure de Justice."

Le Colonel Schepelew ne voudrait pas que le droit d'entamer des poursuites contre les Députés fût réservé au Gouverneur-Général, car il prévoit qu'à la suite d'une ingérence de ce genre dans les affaires intérieures de l'Assemblée, il pourra y avoir des conflits fréquents entre les deux pouvoirs.

Le Baron de Ring adhère à l'idée exprimée par le Premier Commissaire de Russie et propose au premier alinéa de l'Article 28 l'amendement suivant :—

"Article 28. Les Membres de l'Assemblée, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, ont les mêmes droits, les mêmes prérogatives, et les mêmes devoirs. Ils sont libres dans l'émission de leur vote ou dans leur abstention, ainsi que dans l'expression de leurs opinions. Ils ne peuvent être poursuivis à raison de leurs discours, comme aussi à raison de leurs propositions écrites, ou de Rapports par eux rédigés, que sur la demande de six Membres relevant dans le discours ou dans l'écrit un crime caractérisé par la loi, et si la poursuite est autorisée par l'Assemblée."

Cet amendement est accepté par six Commissaires.

Les Délégués de Russie réservent leur vote sur la première phrase de l'alinéa :

"Les Membres de l'Assemblée, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, ont les mêmes droits, les mêmes prérogatives, et les mêmes devoirs."

En conséquencecnce l'alinéa reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 28 :

"Aucune poursuite à fin pénale pour faits étrangers à leurs fonctions ne peut être intentée contre eux pendant la durée d'une Session que si elle est autorisée par l'Assemblée sur la demande du Ministère Public près la Cour Supérieure de Justice."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 29 :

"Article 29. L'Assemblée prépare et vote son règlement intérieur, qui est obligatoire après avoir été approuvé par le Gouverneur-Général.

La Commission adopte les mots : "qui est obligatoire après avoir été approuvée par le Gouverneur-Général," étant supprimés sur la proposition du Prince Tzeretelew.

Le Président lit l'Article 30 :—

"Art. 30. Aucun discours ne peut être lu.

"Il est loisible à chaque Membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale de se servir, pour ses discours, notes, motions, et écrits se rapportant à l'exercice de ses fonctions, d'une des trois langues Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque.

"Les procès-verbaux et ordres du jour de l'Assemblée sont rédigés simultanément dans les trois langues sus-mentionnées."

Le Président relit et met aux voix le premier alinéa :—

"Art. 30. Aucun discours ne peut être lu."

Six Commissaires votent pour cet alinéa.

Les Délégués de Russie pensent que la question devrait être résolue par le règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée Provinciale ; mais dans un but de conciliation, ils se rallient au vote de leurs collègues, et le premier alinéa de l'Article 30 est accepté par la Commission.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 30 :—

"Il est loisible à chaque Membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale de se servir, pour ses discours, notes, motions, et écrits se rapportant à l'exercice de ses fonctions, d'une des trois langues Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque.

La Commission adopte.

Le Prince Tzeretelew est d'avis de supprimer le troisième alinéa, en laissant à l'Assemblée le soin de décider dans son réglement intérieur dans quelle langue devront être rédigés les procès-verbaux.

Le Président met aux voix la proposition du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne accepte.

Les Délegués de France et d'Italie s'abstiennent.

Les Délegués d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie votent contre la proposition, qui est rejetée.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le troisième alinéa de l'Article 30 :—

"Les procès-verbaux et ordres du jour de l'Assemblée sont rédigés simultanément dans les trois langues sus-mentionnées."

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie votent pour.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, et d'Italie s'abstiennent.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent contre, ne voyant pas l'utilité d'introduire dans le Statut Organique une disposition inexécutable.

En conséquence le troisième alinéa de l'Article 30 est rejeté.

Le Président lit l'Article 31 :—

"Art. 31. Le Gouverneur-Général communique avec l'Assemblée, soit en personne, soit par écrit, soit par des Commissaires à son choix pris dans le sein ou en dehors de l'Assemblée."

"A chaque séance, il doit être représenté par un Commissaire."

Le Baron de Ring propose l'amendement suivant :—

"Art. 31. Le Gouverneur-Général communique avec l'Assemblée, soit par écrit, soit par un ou plusieurs Administrateurs-Généraux désignés par lui, soit par des Commissaires à son choix pris dans le sein ou en dehors de l'Assemblée.

"A chaque séance il doit être représenté au moins par un Administrateur-Général ou par un Commissaire.

"Les Administrateurs-Généraux ont d'ailleurs leur entrée dans l'Assemblée Provinciale et doivent être entendus quand ils le demandent.

"Les Administrateurs-Généraux et Commissaires peuvent être interpellés sur les actes de l'Administration Provinciale."

La Commission adopte.

Sur la proposition du *Colonel Schepelew*, il demeure entendu que l'Assemblée a le droit d'inviter un Administrateur-Général à se rendre dans son sein pour l'interpeller sur ses actes et lui exprimer son blâme ou son approbation.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 32 :—

"IV.—*Attribution de l'Assemblée.*

"Art. 32. L'Assemblée Provinciale délibère sur les projets de loi qui sont de sa compétence, conformément à l'Article 13 du Chapitre I, et qui lui lui sont présentés par le Gouverneur-Général.

"Elle les adopte sans changement, les amende ou les rejette.

"Tout projet de loi peut être retiré par le Gouverneur-Général, tant qu'il n'a pas été voté sur l'ensemble de ce projet."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 33 :—

"Art. 33. L'Assemblée Provinciale peut, par voie d'adresse, recommander au Gouverneur-Général l'étude et l'examen de toute question qui lui paraît comporter l'élaboration et la présentation d'un projet de loi ou d'une proposition d'utilité publique.

L'Assemblée partage l'initiative des lois avec le Gouverneur-Général pour autant qu'il ne s'agit pas de grever d'une dépense le budget de la province.

"Un projet de loi ne peut être introduit à l'Assemblée Provinciale, excepté sur l'initiative du Gouverneur-Général, que s'il est revêtu de la signature d'au moins six membres."

La Commission adopte.

Le Baron de Ring propose d'intercaler dans l'Article 33 les alinéas suivants :—

"Cette adresse peut d'ailleurs contenir l'indication des principes d'après lesquels l'Assemblée désire que ce projet de loi ou cette proposition d'utilité publique soit rédigée.

"Dans tous les cas le Gouverneur-Général doit présenter le projet de loi demandé et il ne peut pas le retirer avant que l'Assemblée ne soit prononcé."

La Commission adopte le premier alinéa proposé par le Baron de Ring et décide qu'il prendra le numéro 2 dans l'Article 33.

Six Commissaires votent pour le deuxième alinéa proposé par le Baron de Ring comme alinéa trois de l'Article 33.

Les Délégués de Turquie réservent leur voto.

L'alinéa reste ouvert.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'Article 34 :—

"V.—*Droit de l'Assemblée en Matière Budgétaire.*

"Art. 34. Au commencement de chaque Session ordinaire annuelle, le projet de budget pour l'année suivante est présenté à l'Assemblée Provinciale par le Gouverneur-Général."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président lit l'Article 35 :

"Article 35. Si l'Assemblée croit devoir réduire certains crédits proposés ou même les supprimer entièrement, elle motive son voto et indique où et comment l'économie peut être réalisée, sans préjudice pour l'aquittement des charges et pour la satisfaction des besoins de la province.

"Elle ne peut subordonner l'adoption du budget à des propositions qui n'ont pas de connexité avec lui."

Après une courte discussion, la Commission décide de remettre à la prochaine séance le débat sur l'Article 35.

Le Baron de Ring donne lecture des amendements suivants qu'il se réserve de proposer aux Articles 37 et 39, lorsque la Commission discutera ceux-ci :—

Art. 37, alinéa 2. Les membres de ce Comité sont au nombre de neuf;

"Cinq sont élus par les Députés électifs à l'Assemblée Provinciales;

"Deux sont élus par les Députés nommés par le Gouverneur-Général;

"Deux sont fournis par la catégorie des Chefs de Communautés religieuses, lesquels siégent à tour de rôle suivant un roulement établi par la voie du sort.

"Les sept membres élus du Comité Permanent peuvent être pris parmi tous les Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale indistinctement.

"Les membres du Comité Permanent sont désignés à la fin de chaque Session ordinaire, et leur mandat n'expire qu'au commencement de la Session ordinaire suivante. Si dans l'intervalle d'une Session à l'autre un siége du Comité Permanent vient à vaquer, il y sera pourvu à la plus prochaine Session ordinaire ou extraordinaire.

"Les Chefs de Communautés religieuses ne faisant pas partie du Comité Permanent pendant une certaine année auront néanmoins le droit d'assister avec voix consultative à celles des délibérations du Comité qui toucheront les intérêts de leur Communauté.

"Les cinq membres élus par les Députés électifs jouissent d'un traitement de £T. par an, s'ils sont pris dans la catégorie des Députés électifs."

Alinéas à intercaler dans l'Article 39 à la suite de l'alinéa 3.

"Les Chefs de Service dans les Administrations publiques de la province et des Départements sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit au Comité Permanent tous les renseignements qu'il réclamera d'eux sur les questions intéressant la province, et de lui communiquer sur sa demande écrite et contre reçu toute pièce de comptabilité concernant les finances provinciales.

"Le Comité Permanent est en droit de proposer à l'Assemblée Provinciale la mise en accusation de tout fonctionnaire de la Roumélie Orientale pour crime de concussion ou de trahison."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixé au 7 Février :—

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V : "de l'Assemblée Provinciale."
2. La discussion sur la taxe des spiritueux.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 26.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 76.) *Philippopolis, February* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of the official instructions given by General Stolipine for the formation of the gymnastic societies.

Your Lordship will perceive that this document founds an organized system of rifle clubs and of musketry instruction. It recommends the societies of the towns to assist those of the poorer districts.

One curious provision, which I have underlined in the translation, is this: "Théorie du tir en ligne droite, et tir à des distances plus éloignées avec le fusil système Krinka." I have already informed your Lordship that these Krinka rifles are those which have been lately laid aside by the Russian army in favour of the Berdan. There are large numbers of these arms in store in Philippopolis, and these are the weapons now being distributed by the Russian authorities among the population of the province.

I beg further to inclose a translation of an order by General Stolipine regulating the formation of "armed communal guards" in the villages. These are to be formed on points exposed to the attacks of brigands and Bashi-Bazouks.

By Article 11 it will be perceived that these bodies are armed by the Government; by Article 12 they are to wear a certain badge; and by Article 13 each guard is authorized to be constantly armed. By Article 17 they are to be drilled under the superintendence of the Government and instructed by officers of the army.

As I have previously informed your Lordship, many of these corps were formed previously to the 1st January, the date of the formation of the gymnastic societies, at villages in the north of the province, where there was no danger to be apprehended either from Bashi-Bazouks or brigands. They are now supplemented by these last

societies, and by the time the evacuation takes place, almost every adult man capable of bearing arms will be armed, and to a certain extent disciplined, irrespective of the trained militia.

As I informed your Lordship by telegram, a gentleman of my acquaintance saw a review of 1,500 volunteers at Kezanlik very recently, and he also states that while great quantities of stores and munitions of war are collecting in the Principality of Bulgaria, he saw drilling and other warlike preparations everywhere on the road between Tirnovo and Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Instructions for the Formation of Gymnastic Societies.

Dans plusieurs villes de la Roumélie Orientale il se forme des sociétés libres pour l'enseignement de la gymnastique.

Les avantages de pareilles sociétés ne sauraient être mis en doute, d'autant plus que dans d'autres pays de semblables établissements ont été établis et reconnus indispensables tant pour l'éducation de chaque homme en particulier que pour celle de toute la société, afin que le développement intellectuel aille de pair avec le développement physique.

Mais de semblables sociétés libres de gymnastique et de tir, qui ont le susdit but moral et hygiénique, doivent être autorisées per l'autorité légale, et dans aucun cas ne peuvent être secrètes; car autrement si elles échappent au contrôle nécessaire et à une direction intelligente, loin de profiter au but qu'elles se proposent, c'est-a-dire le développement physique de la nation, elles peuvent faire naître des désordres.

C'est pourquoi, qu'avant de fonder des établissements gymnastiques, on doit soumettre la liste des personnes qui désirent y prendre part afin que les autorités puissent donner la permission nécessaire.

Le réglement de ces sociétés publiques doit être le suivant:—

Article 1er. Pour obtenir l'autorisation de fonder de pareils établissements on doit présenter une pétition au Chef de l'Arrondissement, signée par toutes les personnes qui désirent faire partie de cette société; et cette pétition doit être couverte de cinquante signatures au moins, en indiquant les moyens pécuniaires nécessaires à son maintien.

Art. 2. Pour obtenir l'autorisation les membres doivent choisir un Comité de Direction.

Art. 3. Les membres élus comme chefs, ou le Comité de Direction, doivent établir des règlements et avoir des registres sur lesquels tous les membres doivent inscrire leurs noms, en indiquant le montant de leur quote-part versée; et la Direction de la société élabore des règlements dont la mise en pratique soit possible.

Art. 4. Dans ces règlements on doit spécifier:—

(*a.*) Le règlement au sujet de l'élection des chefs, du caissier, et de la personne chargée de surveiller le matériel de l'établissement.

(*b.*) Le règlement du choix et de l'admission des membres.

(*c.*) On devra désigner l'endroit, le temps des exercices, et de local choisi pour conserver les armes.

(*d.*) Le versement semestriel ou annuel à effectuer pour être admis comme membre.

(*e.*) Les règles établissant dans quel cas un membre perd le droit de faire partie de la société, et dans quel cas il doit en être exclu pour en avoir violé les règlements.

(*f.*) Le droit, les devoirs, et le nom du membre reçu et ses capacités. Ensuite on doit prendre en considération ce qui suit:

Dans ses occupations la société doit agir avec prudence et ne pas le presser.

Un membre inscrit ne peut être considéré comme membre définitif que lorsqu'il aura appris les règles de l'exercice gymnastique, et qu'il pourra les effectuer parfaitement. C'est-à-dire:

(*a.*) Relativement à la gymnastique; régularité dans les mouvements gymnastiques; dans la marche et dans la course; les règles de l'exercice gymnastique sur les machines; monter à l'échelle perpendiculaire, marcher sur une poutre, grimper sur un mur, sauter un fossé, sauter une barrière, et sauter d'une hauteur.

(*b.*) Concernant le tir:

Règles sur le rassemblement, le choix, et la manière d'entretenir le fusil; la confection des cartouches et la manière de s'en servir.

Règle sur la manière de viser à différentes distances.

Règle sur tir dans les différentes positions du corps.

Règle pour le tir à la cible servant de but au fusil.

Théorie du tir en ligne droite, et tir à des distances plus éloignées avec le fusil système Krinka.

Essai de tir avec des cartouches à la distance de 100 pas, de 200 pas, et de 280 pas à chaque distance avec trois cartouches afin de toucher pas plus loin que 5.

De cette manière il n'y a pas de doute que lorsque le corps sera fortifié par des exercices gymnastiques et lorsqu'on aura appris à tenir régulièrement le fusil, à faire fonctionner la détente, celui qui s'y sera soigneusement appliqué donnera des résultats meilleurs que la première fois.

De pareils membres ne prendront qu'alors le titre de membres actifs de la Société Gymnastique de Tir. Après quoi ils pourront commencer un cours de gymnastique plus élevé, et un tir à de plus grandes distances, ainsi que de faire des excursions ou marches, auxquelles les règles des sociétés de tir Suisses peuvent servir de modèle.

Après un nouvel examen les membres actifs peuvent être appelés gymnastes ou tireurs. Les membres actifs seuls ont le droit de recevoir de la société à titre de récompense un fusil, et 120 cartouches pour ce fusil, et peuvent recevoir une cocarde ou tout autre signe de distinction extérieur. Par conséquent les membres âgés de 18 à 40 ans, qui ne portent pas le titre de membre participant.

Mais les membres d'un âge avancé ou d'une santé véritablement débile qui, par leur âge ou l'état de leur santé se faisant inscrire et ne pouvant prendre part avec profit aux exercices de gymnastique et de tir, qui éprouvent le désir de contribuer aux frais de la société, peuvent s'appeler membres protecteurs. Il serait à désirer que les sociétés des villes d'arrondissement disposant de plus grandes ressources et ayant plus de pouvoir de mettre cette affaire en bonne voie, s'entendissent avec les sociétés communales voisines et pussent au moins leur fournir des instructions pour le tir et la gymnastique.

On ne doit pas perdre de vue que la société ne doit pas avoir cette idée, que pour les premiers exercices, tels que gymnastique même, pour la pratique, il est nécessaire de dépenser beaucoup d'argent; certainement dans les sociétés où il y a des capitaux suffisants, un appareil complet de gymnastique est indispensable; mais dans les sociétés pauvres, telles que celles des bourgs et des villages, peuvent se les procurer sans de grandes dépenses. Le fossé peut être creusé, et on peut faire des monticules, et pour ce qui est des poutres on en trouvera toujours.

Les traverses pour les exercices du corps peuvent aussi être faites par eux; les murailles pour les exercices d'escalade peuvent aussi être construites très-facilement.

Les exercices de tir peuvent à la rigueur être faits dans la cour, seulement il est indispensable d'avoir un local pour y déposer les armes et les munitions.

En général l'exercice du tir n'exige pas beaucoup de temps, mais seulement l'attention pour le véritable désir de s'instruire. Mais dans tous les cas le passage rapide au tir avec des cartouches à balle sans une préparation fondamentale de tir et de règles concernant la détente, loin d'être utile, sera au contraire nuisible.

Mais sous ce rapport on peut faire des exceptions pour ceux qui se seraient déjà occupés de tir avec succès; les nouveaux ont besoin d'apprendre d'abord le démontage et le montage du fusil, la théorie du tir en ligne droite, les règles du tir aux différentes positions du corps, et le règlement de la mise aux différentes distances.

J'ajouterai encore que la société libre de gymnastique et de tir doit se procurer des instructeurs capables pour l'uniformité des éclaircissements qui leur seront envoyés; (1) le sommaire des mouvements gymnastiques; (2) les instructions pour l'étude du tir.

Ces instructions doivent être mises en pratique dès le début de l'organisation de la société, parce qu'elles ont été fondées pour l'étude sérieuse de cette affaire pour l'instruction et ont donné des résultats excellents.

Il est également indispensables de ne pas perdre de vue qu'aucune contrainte à l'effet d'entrer dans la société ne doit être faite. De même on ne saurait forcer les personnes d'assister aux exercices, parce que si les membres de la société expriment librement leur désir de s'instruire, il n'y a pas de doute qu'ils s'en acquitteront consciencieusement; celui-là seul peut compter sur son arme qui sait s'en servir; autrement l'arme ne sera plus qu'un jouet, et son but perdra son caractère sérieux.

(Signé) Général Lieutenant STOLIPINE.

Philippopoli, le 10 Janvier, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Order to the 9th Corps d'Armée and to the Detachment at Philippopolis.

POUR compléter l'ordre du jour adressé au 9e Corps d'Armée et au détachement de Philippopoli, en date du 15 Janvier, il est porté à la connaissance de toutes les parties de l'armée qu'il a été formé des gardes communaux armés dans les villages.

1. Les gardes communaux sont formés par le Chef de l'Arrondissement sur les points exposés à être assaillis par des brigands.

2. Le but des gardes armés est de défendre leurs concitoyens et leurs voisins des excursions des bandes de Bachi-Bozouks; de s'emparer des brigands qui ont leur repaire dans les forêts du voisinage des gardes, et d'aider les agents de police dans tout ce qui concerne l'arrestation des malfaiteurs armés.

3. Les gardes sont formés des habitants de la localité, irréprochables sous tous les rapports.

4. Le choix des gardes est fait par le Conseil des Anciens.

5. Les Anciens garantissent que le choix fait par eux est irréprochable sous tous les rapports, et qu'ils n'abuseront pas des armes qui leur sont remises.

6. Le doyen des gendarmes commande tous les gardes communaux dans les limites de son ressort.

7. Toutes les personnes choisies par les Anciens pour composer ces gardes ne reçoivent aucune rétribution du Gouvernement.

8. En cas d'attaque de la part des malfaiteurs le doyen des gendarmes a le droit d'exiger des gardes une obéissance absolue à ses ordres.

9. Le doyen a le droit d'avoir les gardes sous ses ordres, même dans le cas où, par ordre supérieur, son concours serait requis pour procéder à l'arrestation des malfaiteurs, ou bien lorsque les habitants l'informent que des malfaiteurs se sont montrés dans le rayon de son commandement.

10. Dans tous ces cas, quand il arrive au doyen de recourir à l'assistance des gardes, il doit en faire un rapport circonstancié à son Chef.

11. Les gardes ayant reçu des armes du Gouvernement pour se défendre, ne peuvent toutefois s'en servir que lorsque leurs ennemis les y obligent, et ils ne doivent dans tous les cas tirer que sur l'ordre du gendarme, et en son absence de celui de l'Ancien. Pour attaque à main-armée sur les habitants paisibles et pour perturbation, dans ces cas les coupables sont traduits devant les Tribunaux.

12. Les gardes, pour les distinguer des habitants, portent sur leurs schapska des croix avec l'inscription "Garde Communale" de tel arrondissement, avec leur numéro au milieu.

13. Chaque garde a le droit d'être constamment armé.

14. Les armes et les munitions des gardes sont délivrées par le Gouvernement contre le reçu de l'Ancien, lequel s'engage à les rendre au Chef de l'Arrondissement sur la réquisition de ce dernier, en donnant le compte des cartouches qui ont été employées.

15. Toute infraction à la discipline commise par les gardes est passible d'une peine disciplinaire ne dépassant pas sept jours d'arrêt, et jugée par le Chef de l'Arrondissement; mais quant aux infractions plus graves le Chef de l'Arrondisement doit en référer au Gouverneur.

16. Tous les rapports du doyen au sujet des opérations des gardes, de quelque importance qu'ils soient, le Chef de l'Arrondissement doit les soumettre toutes les semaines au Gouverneur, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de cas exceptionnels; mais lorsqu'il s'agit de comptes-rendus d'une importance particulière, le Chef de l'Arrondissement en instruit immédiatement le Gouverneur.

17. Le Chef de l'Arrondissement rassemble les gardes dans les endroits qu'il trouve le plus favorable aux exercices, qui sont: le maniement des armes, le tir, et quelques notions de discipline.

Le Commandant du corps d'armée, Général Stolipine, a ordonné d'ajouter comme confirmation que, conformément à ce qui a été déjà publié dans l'ordre No. 13, le mode de réception d'armes, des dépôts pour l'armement des gardes communaux, la répartition des armes, et la responsabilité de leur entretien, l'emploi et la conservation des munitions, de même que le maintien de l'ordre et de la discipline des gardes communaux, sont du devoir et de la responsabilité des Chefs d'Arrondissement et du doyen de la gendarmerie.

Quant à l'armée, elle prête son concours pour l'instruction des gardes communaux.

En cas de menace des Bachi-Bozouks ou des malfaiteurs, les gardes sont obligés de prendre des mesures de défendre et d'avertir les troupes les plus proches. Les Chefs des détachements militaires sont tenus de porter secours aux gardes, avec l'aide et le concours des troupes les plus voisines, d'expliquer ensuite le cas à chaque Chef de détachement (bataillon et compagnie), afin qu'ils examinent sévèrement la situation, et s'ils remarquent que la milice a illégalement fait usage de ses armes, et que les gardes communaux ont commencé l'attaque; alors, après en avoir examiné le cas, de le porter immédiatement à la connaissance du Chef du corps par estafette, au moyen de dépêches secrètes écrites même en crayon. Les Chefs de détachement doivent rappeler de temps en temps aux habitants de leur rayon que les armes ont été données aux gardes pour la défense et le maintien de l'ordre dans le pays, et non pour le brigandage et les attaques.

Toute violation de l'ordre sera poursuivie par toutes les rigueurs des lois militaires.

Le Chef d'Etat-Major du 9ième Corps,
(Signé) Général Major LIPINSKY.

No. 27

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 3.*)

(No. 78.) *Philippopolis, February* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 35th Protocol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Protocole No. 35.—*Séance du* 30 Janvier / 7 Février 1879 (15 *Sepher*, 1296), *a la Maison de la Commission Européenne a Philippopoli.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew.
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Colonel Schepelew si le Gouverneur-Général a répondu à la lettre que le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne a adressée, le 13/25 Janvier, 1879, à son Excellence au sujet de la Caisse spéciale.

Le Colonel Schepelew dit qu'il n'attend aucune réponse: "Si le Prince Dondoukoff-

Korsakoff, ajoute-t-il, a une communication à faire à la Commission, il s'adressera au Gouverneur-Général de Philippopoli, et ce dernier en fera part à notre Président."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande à son Excellence Assim Pacha si le Gouverneur-Général a répondu à la lettre que le Colonel Sclepelew, alors Président temporaire de la Commission, a adressée, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 1879, au Général Stolipine, relativement à la Caisse spéciale.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond négativement.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V amendé en Conférence privée.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 35 :

"Article 35. Si l'Assemblée croit devoir réduire certains crédits proposés ou même les supprimer entièrement, elle motive son vote et indique où et comment l'économie peut être réalisée, sans préjudice pour l'acquittement des charges et pour la satisfaction des besoins de la province.

"Elle ne peut subordonner l'adoption du budget à des propositions qui n'ont pas de connexité avec lui."

Le Baron de Ring et le *Prince Tzeretelew* proposent l'amendement suivant au premier alinéa de l'Article 35 :

"Article 35. Si l'Assemblée réduit certains crédits proposés ou les supprime entièrement, elle motive son vote et indique où et comment l'économie peut être réalisée, sans préjudice pour l'acquittement des charges imposées à la province par le Statut Organique ou résultant de créances contre la province dont le recouvrement peut être poursuivi par la voie judiciaire."

Les Commissaires de Turquie, craignant que l'amendement proposé par les Commissaires de France et de Russie ne donne à l'Assemblée Provinciale le pouvoir d'arrêter le fonctionnement de l'Administration en réduisant les crédits demandés par cette dernière, préféreraient la rédaction primitive du premier alinéa de l'Article 35 dont le Président vient de donner lecture.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit que l'amendement ne confère pas de trop grands avantages à l'Assemblée : "En effet," dit-il, "tout en donnant certains droits budgétaires à l'Assemblée Provinciale, cet amendement laisse intacts les droits du Sultan."

Le Baron de Ring dit que le premier alinéa de l'Article 35, dans sa rédaction primitive, limitait d'une manière trop étroite les droits de l'Assemblée Provinciale en matière de budget, et que c'est afin de rendre à ce privilége précieux l'étendue qu'il comporte légitimement qu'il s'est entendue avec ses collègues de Russie pour proposer un nouveau texte.

Les Commissaires de Turquie déclarent que, tout en préférant l'ancienne rédaction, ils accepteront, par esprit de conciliation et pour ne pas retarder les travaux de la Commission, l'amendement du Baron de Ring et du Prince Tzeretelew.

L'amendement, mis aux voix par le Président, est accepté par la Commission.

Le Président relit le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 35 :—

"Elle ne peut subordonner l'adoption du budget à des propositions qui n'ont pas de connexité avec lui."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'à son avis le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 35 est extrêmement vague et n'aura aucune portée pratique.

Le Baron de Ring explique que, dans la pensée du rédacteur, cet alinéa est destiné à prévenir de graves abus et à sauvegarder la dignité de l'Administration, qui serait évidemment compromise, si, pour assurer un service public, les Directeurs-Généraux étaient obligés de prendre des engagements n'ayant aucun rapport avec ce même service ; si par exemple la Chambre pouvait faire dépendre les votes des fonds destinés à l'entretien d'une école, de la construction d'un théâtre.

Le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 35, mis aux voix, est accepté par la Commission.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 36 :—

"Art. 36. Le Gouverneur-Général doit examiner avec soin les observations et propositions de l'Assemblée tendant à des réductions ou suppressions de crédit, et il doit y faire droit autant que possible sans qu'il en résulte de préjudice pour l'Empire ou pour la province.

"S'il ne peut adhérer à ces observations ou propositions, et si l'Assemblée, après avoir entendu les explications données par lui, persiste à refuser les crédits demandés,

ou bien si l'Assemblée arrive au terme de la Session sans avoir voté le budget, le Gouverneur-Général peut, par une Ordonnance rendue sur l'avis conforme du Conseil privé, rendre le budget de l'exercice courant applicable à l'exercice suivant, déduction faite toutefois des sommes inscrites en vue d'un besoin déterminé et auquel il a déjà pourvu."

Le Baron de Ring propose l'amendement suivant à l'Article 36 :—

"Art. 36. Si l'Assemblée, après avoir entendu les explications données par le Gouverneur-Général, persiste à refuser les crédits demandés, ou bien si elle arrive au terme de la Session sans avoir voté le budget, le Gouverneur-Général peut, par une Ordonnance rendue sur l'avis conforme du Conseil Privé, rendre le budget de l'exercice courant applicable à l'exercice suivant, déduction faite toutefois des sommes inscrites en vue d'un besoin déterminé et auquel il y a déjà été pourvu."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff prend la parole en ces termes :—

"Si, comme je l'espère, nous parvenons à établir en Roumélie Orientale une organisation administrative sérieuse, nous serons, par ce fait même, arrivés à doter la province d'une Assemblée constituée sur des bases solides et qui ne fera pas un mauvais usage de ses droits. Mais pour que la dite Assemblée, sous l'influence de quelques-uns de ses membres, ne se laisse pas entraîner par les passions politiques à abuser de son pouvoir, nous devons dès aujourd'hui fixer d'une manière définitive et incontestable la part des revenus de la province qui rentrera dans les Caisses de l'Empire, ainsi que les traitements du Gouverneur-Général et des principaux fonctionnaires. L'Assemblée n'ayant de la sorte qu'à se prononcer sur les crédits qui lui seront demandés dans l'intérêt de la province, ne les refusera pas. Si malgré tout elle les rejette purement, si elle ne vote pas le budget, elle se lancera dans une voie révolutionnaire, et le seul remède que j'entrevois pour ma part à un pareil état de choses sera la dissolution."

Abro Effendi croit que la dissolution ne pourrait remédier au refus de voter le budget, le Gouverneur-Général étant, malgré tout, obligé de se servir de l'ancien budget jusqu'à la réunion des nouveaux Députés.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff répond que dans le projet sur la dissolution qu'il se réserve de présenter à la Commission, il pense introduire une clause déterminant le délai dans lequel la nouvelle Assemblée devra se réunir. Ainsi un conflit entre le Gouverneur-Général et les représentants de la province ne durera jamais longtemps :—

"D'un autre côté," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, "l'amendement au premier alinéa de l'Article 35 qui vient d'être accepté ne parle que d'une opposition de l'Assemblée à certains crédits et non au budget entier. Refuser le budget, je le répète, serait faire une révolution, et je compte, quant à moi, sur des dispositions plus sérieuses de la part de la future Assemblée, qui aura pour guide un Gouverneur-Général choisi avec l'assentiment des Puissances. Les Plénipotentiaires à la Conférence de Constantinople ont voulu donner au Conseil Administratif que remplace l'Assemblée Provinciale des droits budgétaires étendus. Nous accordons aujourd'hui plus encore aux représentants de la population Rouméliote, en fixant la durée du budget à un an au lieu de l'établir pour cinq ans, comme le faisait la Conférence. Si la province se développe, comme je le souhaite, nous verrons se créer ici des chemins de fer, des routes, des entreprises de tout genre, et il est hors de doute que l'Assemblée Provinciale devra avoir de véritables droits sur les revenus du pays, autant, du moins, que ces droits ne lèseront pas les intérêts de l'Empire. En résumé, tout en préférant la rédaction primitive de l'Article 36, je suis prêt à accepter, pour les raisons que je viens d'exposer, l'amendement proposé par le Baron de Ring."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il admet toute la valeur des arguments de Sir H. Drummond Wolff et se déclare prêt à voter l'amendement du Commissaire de France : "Mais," dit-il, "si nous acceptons que le budget puisse être rendu obligatoire pour un an sans avoir été voté par l'Assemblée, c'est une concession dont il faut nous savoir gré, car d'après les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople, le budget devait toujours être fixée d'une entente entre le Gouverneur-Général et le Conseil Administratif, et nous avons admis nous-mêmes que les intérêts financiers de la province devaient être confiés aux représentants de la population."

Les Commissaires de Turquie constatent qu'ils auraient préféré la rédaction primitive de l'Article 36, mais que, pour donner une nouvelle preuve de leur esprit de conciliation, ils voteront l'amendement du Commissaire de France.

L'amendement du Baron de Ring, mis aux voix par le Président, est accepté par la Commission.

Le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait qu'on ajournât à la prochaine séance la discussion sur les derniers Articles du Chapitre V traitant du Comité de Permanence, parce que, dans l'intervalle, un accord pourrait s'établir entre les Commissaires.

Le Baron de Ring abonde dans le même sens.

La Commission décide que les Articles 37, 38, 39 ne seront discutés qu'à la prochaine séance.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la taxe des spiritueux.

Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances rappelle que dans la séance du 28 Janvier il avait soumis à la Commission une pétition des marchands de spiritueux de Philippopoli demandant le rétablissement de l'ancien droit de tant pour cent sur les loyers de leurs boutiques, qui a été remplacé récemment par une patente fixe de £T. 10 par semestre.

Après un court débat, la Commission charge le Comité des Finances de s'entendre à ce sujet avec le Directeur-Général des Finances et de prendre telles mesures qu'ils jugeront convenables, en veillant toutefois à ce que le nombre des débits de spiritueux n'augmente pas sensiblement et à ce que les revenus de la province ne subissent de ce chef aucune diminution. Il est bien entendu que, jusqu'à la mise à exécution des mesures que décidera le Comité des Finances, le *statu quo* sera maintenu.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 10 Février:—

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V: "de l'Assemblée Provinciale;" et—

2. (A la demande de M. de Kallay) la sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente et unième séance et conçue en ces termes:—

"6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha?"

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 28.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 16, 1879.

M. SCHMIDT dispatched last week M. Stoeff, Inspector of the Indirect Taxes, to several districts to inquire into the state of the local finances.

M. Stoeff is a Bulgarian very much identified with the Bulgarian party. He is a large proprietor at Eski-Zagra, and during recent events lost fourteen of his near relations. He has a good reputation and was appointed by M. Schmidt in order to conciliate the feelings of the Bulgarian population.

On Friday M. Schmidt received from him the telegram, copy of which is inclosed, stating the danger which he was incurring. M. de Coutouly at once went to General Stolipine, who gave orders for the dispatch of infantry and of Cossacks to the spot. Later the telegram No. 2 was received dated 1 A.M.; but yesterday at the sitting of the Commission, telegram No. 3 reached M. Coutouly announcing a renewal of the disorder.

To-day I learn, but without details, that General Hübsch has telegraphed to the Governor-General that order is restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

M. Stoëff to M. Schmidt.

Tchirpan, le 2, Février, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)
LA population m'a chassé du bureau des Contributions Indirectes. J'ai trouvé refuge au bureau du télégraphe. Je me trouve maintenant en danger. Dieu sait comment je me sauverai, le télégraphe étant cerné par la population.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

M. Stoëff to M. Schmidt.

(Télégraphique.)
GRACE au Chef de l'Arrondissement et au Chef de la station télégraphique qui, avec l'aide de gardes, ont pris toutes les mesures, ma vie a été sauvée.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

M. Stoëff to M. Schmidt.

(Télégraphique.)
HIER, après la dépêche No. 8, sur la demande de la population, et sur les instances du Chef de l'Arrondissement, j'ai consenti à m'éloigner de Tchirpan, accompagné par ce dernier. Mais aussitôt que je me suis mis à cheval, la foule est tombée sur moi; j'ai pu cependant m'échapper, et me cacher au domicile du Chef de télégraphe.

Le peuple s'est dispersé dans la nuit.

Ce matin la place est de nouveau envahie par la population, et je n'ai pas le courage de sortir de la chambre. Je vous supplie de me télégraphier comment je dois faire.

No. 29.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 16, 1879.

BY a Decree of the 28th July, extract of which is inclosed, Prince Dondoukoff ordered that the sums derived from the revenues, or produce of properties belonging to absentee Turks, should be paid into the provincial Chest. When this Chest was handed over to the Commission the chief part of its contents was found to be drawn from these sources. Accounts were also given under this head.

A few days since M. Schmidt discovered that these sums were no longer paid into the Chest by the District Councils, and on inquiring, he found accidentally that a circular to this effect had been issued by Governor Hübsch, on the 5th December, to those Councils, without any communication to the Commission or to M. Schmidt.

A translation of this circular is inclosed. Your Lordship will perceive from this document that General Hübsch declares that this decision has been come to since the handing over of the Chest to the Commission.

As I shall have to recur to this question in a subsequent despatch, I shall not trouble your Lordship with a long correspondence that has taken place on the subject, and will content myself with inclosing a copy of a letter addressed by General Stolipine to Assim Pasha, the present President of the Commission, in answer to a letter which his Excellency was charged to draw up in conjunction with the Committee of Finance.

General Stolipine, I think, unnecessarily complains of a want of courtesy on the part of Assim Pasha, which I do not think your Lordship will consider borne out when

I am enabled to call your attention to the whole correspondence. But the interesting part of General Stolipine's letter is his declaration that he is absolutely without power over his subordinates in financial matters, and that they act in pursuance of orders given before his arrival.

It is difficult to reconcile this statement with the wording of General Hübsch's circular which professes to be written with the assent of the Governor-General, or with the date of that document which refers to circumstances subsequent to General Stolipine's assumption of his duties.

It shows, however, positively that the Governor-General is subjected to some authority other than his own; but whether this be Prince Dondoukoff at Sofia, General Todleben at Adrianople, or Prince Labanoff at Constantinople, or all three, it is impossible to gather from his letter.

I believe there has been some very angry correspondence between General Stolipine and Prince Dondoukoff, and it is said that the latter has received some orders from the Emperor which he has not obeyed.

The want of system and order in the Russian Administration thus daily becomes more apparent.

The Governor of Slivno writes to M. Schmidt, that he will not hand over the sums under the above-named category, as he considers them booty of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Instructions for the Caisses d'Arrondissement.

La Première Planche Porte l'Inscription:

"Confirmé le 28 Juillet, 1878,
(Signé) "Prince DONDOUKOFF-KORSAKOFF."

Chapitre I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article 1er. Les Caisses d'arrondissement sont établies dans chaque arrondissement pour encaisser et dépenser les sommes de la Bulgarie, qui sont destinées à être encaissées et dépensées dans l'arrondissement même.

Art. 2. En se fondant sur l'Article précédent les Caisses d'arrondissement encaissent les revenus suivants:—

(A.)—*Impôts Directs.*

(1.) "L'ochoure," ou dîme, perçue sur les produits de la terre pour l'année 1878.
(2.) "L'impôt foncier," en place et lieu de la dîme, à partir de l'année 1878.
(3.) Contributions:—
  (*a.*) "L'emlink verghessi;" impôt sur l'estimation des biens immeubles.
  (*b.*) Le "témétouat;" impôt sur toute espèce de revenue net.
  (*c.*) "L'idjiar;" impôt sur le loyer des biens immeubles.
(4.) Le "béglik;" impôt sur les brebis et chèvres.
(5.) Le "cerdjime;" impôt sur les cochons.

(B.)—*Impôts Indirects.*

(1.) Impôts sur les tabacs:—
  (*a.*) Le "Mourourié;" impôt sur la vente des tabacs bruts par les producteurs.
  (*b.*) Les "banderolles;" impôts sur le droit de vendre du tabac dans des débits ou magasins.
(2.) Impôts sur les vins et les spiritueux:—
  (*a.*) Le ""charab-guioumrongon;" impôt sur la vente du vin.
  (*b.*) Le "rouhsadié;" impôt sur le droit de faire commerce de vin.
(3.) Octroi de sel:—
  (*a.*) De celui qui est importé.
  (*b.*) De celui qui est obtenu en Bulgarie.

(4.) Droits:—
  (*a.*) Sur actes qui n'ont pas un caractère de possession directe.
  (*b.*) Sur actes au prorata de la somme y mentionnée.
  (*c.*) Sur la cession d'un immeuble d'une personne à une autre.
  (*d.*) Sur la conclusion de contrats à ferme sur un immeuble.
(5.) Droits de passe-port:—
  (*a.*) Permis de voyage à l'intérieur du pays—bon pour un an.
  (*b.*) Passe-port à l'étranger.

(C.)—*Droits de Douane.*

(D.)—*Revenus des Propriétés de l'Etat.*

(E.)—*Amendes.*

(F.)—*Revenus de la Porte.*

(G.)—*Remboursements.*

(1.) Argent remboursé par des fonctionnaires comme réliquat des sommes reçues par eux pour les dépenses nécessaires aux affaires du service.
(2.) Sommes envoyées par d'autre Caisses à l'effet d'augmenter le fonds.
(3.) Sommes entrées conditionnellement dans les revenus de la Bulgarie.
  (1.) Revenus des biens des fugitifs Turcs.
  (2.) Sommes provenants de la vente de leurs biens.

Art. 3. Après l'ouverture des Caisses d'arrondissement, toutes les dépenses des revenus Bulgares sont faites seulement par l'entremise de la Caisse sur les demandes qui sont formées au nom des créanciers directs du Trésor. Par conséquent, les revenus encaissés par les Conseils Administratifs, Municipaux, d'Arrondissement, par les Tribunaux et l'Administration des douanes, sont remis intégralement dans les Trésors d'arrondissement du lieu.

Art. 4. Les Caisses d'arrondissement tiennent des comptes, délivrent des quittances, présentent des comptes-rendus et des bilans, et entretiennent une correspondance en Bulgare avec les établissements compétents gouvernementaux et publics.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Circular of the Civil Governor of Philippopolis.

LES Chefs des Arrondissements n'ayant pas bien compris l'esprit de la circulaire du mois d'Octobre, je me vois forcé, avec l'assentiment du Gouverneur-Général, de les informer que la Direction des Finances, qui est chargée de l'administration des revenus de la Roumelie Orientale, n'est nullement en droit de prendre sous son contrôle les sommes conditionnellement entrées, aussi bien que les revenus municipaux.

Les sommes qui ont été déjà versées dans les Caisses des arrondissements ont été inscrites sur les livres des dites Caisses, et le Directeur des Finances les considère comme étant les revenus du pays soumis à son administration.

Afin qu'à l'avenir cet état de choses ne puisse pas se renouveler, il est indispensable de confier le montant de ces revenus pour être gardés dans des sacs cachetés par les Conseils Administratifs, et contre le reçu du caissier. Ces reçus doivent porter la mention que cet argent ne s'y trouve qu'à titre de dépôt. Les papiers qui accompagneront les sacs doivent aussi porter le cachet du Conseil Administratif.

Cette façon de procéder est d'autant plus nécessaire, qu'outre la préservation d'être considérés comme étant soumises à l'administration de la Direction des Finances, ces sommes peuvent aussi courir le risque de se perdre, ce qui ne serait pas étonnant quand on sait le degré d'incapacité et d'inexpérience des employés actuels.

Lorsque l'administration des revenus du pays a été remise entre les mains de la Direction des Finances on n'a pas fait un grand cas de cette mesure, mais les choses ont changé depuis et il est indispensable de séparer les revenus conditionnellement versés, et les revenus municipaux de ceux qui peuvent être gérés au nom de la Commission Internationale.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

General Stolipine to Assim Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1879.

M. le Président,

EN réponse à la missive de votre Excellence datée du 29 Janvier, je dois avant tout me mettre hors de cause pour ce qui regarde la question financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

Je n'ai jamais eu sous mes ordres le département des finances de cette province, ni *de facto* ni *de jure*, car ma nomination au poste de Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale coïncide avec la remise des finances entre les mains de la Commission Européenne. Ainsi donc, n'ayant aucune connaissance des lois, règlements, ou ordres sur lesquels étaient basées la comptabilité et la répartition des sommes de ce pays, d'un autre côté MM. les Gouverneurs ayant réglé le mode de la rémission des finances au Directeur des Finances d'après des ordres antérieurs à mon entrée au pouvoir, mon rôle jusqu'aujourd'hui n'a pas consisté et ne consiste qu'à donner avis à mes subordonnés des décisions prises par le Comité des Finances, sans me poser en juge compétent pour trancher la question, si ces décisions sont ou ne sont pas d'accord avec les instructions qu'ils avaient reçues avant la remise des Caisses. Je n'ai qu'à faire maintenir l'ordre pendant la remise de ces Caisses dont je ne connais pas le contenu, à sévir en cas de désordre et à faciliter autant qu'il est dans mon pouvoir la tâche ingrate de la Commission Financière.

Ayant ainsi déterminé ma position vis-à-vis de la Commission Européenne en ce qui concerne la question financière, il eût été facile de tirer mon épingle du jeu, en priant la Commission de s'adresser directement pour tout ce qui regarde cette question aux autorités qui ont régi les finances, et réglé leur transmission à la Commission Financière avant mon arrivée au pouvoir. De cette façon je me serais évité le désagrément d'assumer une responsabilité qui ne m'incombe pas, et celui de recevoir de votre Excellence un ultimatum qui, sans parler du fond, ne répond guère par la forme à la courtoisie dont je ne me suis départi dans une correspondance antérieure avec l'honorable Commission.

Mais dans ma position il eût été futile de sacrifier le but de conciliation que nous poursuivons tous à la forme et une susceptibilité personnelle, d'autant plus que je dois me guider sur le désir de mon auguste Souverain, de faciliter par tous les moyens légaux la tâche de la Commission Européenne, et sur l'ordre formel de Sa Majesté d'agir selon les décisions du Traité de Berlin. Ainsi me suis-je mis en rapport avec le Commissaire Impérial, avec le Général-en-chef, et avec l'Ambassadeur de Russie près la Sublime Porte, pour en avoir des instructions précises sur l'Article du Traité de Berlin qui, à ce qu'il paraît, n'est pas assez clair, pour ne pas se prêter à des interprétations différentes.

Si les honorables membres de la Commission Européenne sont animés, comme je l'espère, du même esprit de conciliation que moi, votre Excellence voudra bien les prier d'attendre ma réponse jusqu'à ce que j'ai reçu les susdites instructions.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) STOLIPINE.

No. 30.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 158.)

Constantinople, February 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch No. 162 of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a further letter from the Aborigines Protection and Anti-Slavery Societies, relating to Christian women and children alleged to be confined in Mussulman houses in Turkey. In that letter your Lordship's special attention is called to the case of a Bulgarian girl named Stefanaka Vassilewa, aged 18 or 19, who, together with seven or eight others, whose names are unknown, is said to be confined in the house of a certain Kiamil Pasha at Behek on the Bosphorus. This is a further instance out of many of the serious perversions of fact which are contained in the communications from these Societies. It would lead the public to believe that Kiamil Pasha was detaining these girls. Kiamil Pasha died long ago. His widow, an Egyptian Princess, known for her kindly, humane, and generous character, lives in the house at Behek.

Lady Layard is acquainted with her. When the refugees came in vast numbers from the provinces to Constantinople, she offered to take charge of a certain number of orphans, and to bring them up and educate them at her own expense. The authorities who were charged with the care of the refugees sent some eight or ten to her—all, with one exception, Mussulmans. They are all furnished with papers, and are perfectly free. Amongst them there appears to have been Stefanaka Vassilewa. I requested Princess Nazli Khanum to inquire of the Princess Kiamil, who is her aunt, about this girl. She did so, and writes me as follows:—

"I went myself to my aunt's, as I promised. It is quite true; she has a Bulgarian girl in her house, taken in from pity and charity. She is from Rustchuk, where she had already become a Mussulman, as she says. I saw her. Last year a priest came to speak to her, and said he would force her to return to the Bulgarian Church. Since that time no one has inquired about her; but my aunt says that as she is keeping her only from kindness, because she has no one here, she is perfectly free to go wherever she likes. My aunt says that any one you wish to send to make inquiry can see this girl and speak to her."

I am assured that the girl does not wish to leave the house of the Princess Kiamil, in which she appears to be kindly treated, and I have no means of forcing her to do so, as she is of full age. Before quitting Constantinople I shall send one of the dragomans to the Greek Patriarch to suggest that steps should be taken to withdraw the girl from the Princess, and to have her properly cared for, if she is willing to leave. But in a case of this kind I cannot recommend violence.

As for M. Spanoudi, sufficient has come to my knowledge to make me desirous of having as little as possible to do with that gentleman. I believe him to be a Russian agent and a spy, and it is my conviction that this affair about the kidnapping of Christian children has been got up through him for the purpose of exciting public opinion in England against Turkey and against Her Majesty's Government. I am now inclined to doubt whether reliance can be placed upon any of his statements. Should he require foreign protection to enable him to return here, he must know very well that if what he has stated is true he would have no difficulty whatever in obtaining it from the Russian Embassy, and it is to that Embassy that he ought to apply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 162.)

Pera, February 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Mare, dated the 12th instant, on the affairs of Samos, in which he states that M. Fournier had written to say that he was happy to have taken a small part in furthering the wishes of the Samians, and adds that his Excellency had asked for a map of the island.

I have, &c.

(For Sir A. H. Layard),

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Acting Consul Mare to Sir A. H. Layard.

Samos, le 12 *Février*, 1879.

Excellence,

EN me référant à mon office du 5 Février, 1879, je me fais un devoir de soumettre à votre Excellence que depuis cette date la tranquillité publique n'a pas été dérangée ici, malgré l'état anormal de l'administration de l'île, qui de fait a été enlevée au Prince Gouverneur, Photiades Bey, par tous les employés du pays, qui ont pris l'engagement sous serment de ne point obéir aux ordres que pourrait leur transmettre le Prince, qui de son côté considère impassiblement l'état des choses actuel et ne prend aucune initiative à cet égard.

En outre j'ai l'honneur de porter au su de votre Excellence que le Président de

l'Assemblée a reçu directement, et d'après ce qui me revient de sources certaines, une lettre de M. Fournier dans laquelle il accuse réception de la dépêche des députés Samiens. M. Fournier ajoute qu'il s'est rendu chez le Grand Vizir pour lui recommander les affaires de Samos; que le Grand Vizir lui avait répondu qu'il était d'accord avec la délégation Samienne et qu'il avait fait nommer par Sa Majesté le Sultan Costaki Adossidis Pacha Prince de Samos; que M. l'Ambassadeur s'estime heureux d'avoir pu prendre une petite part au résultat des vœux des Samiens.

Hier, l'Agent de la Principauté à Constantinople a télégraphié à l'Assemblée que M. Fournier désirerait une carte géographique de l'Ile de Samos.

Ces événements ont singulièrement impressionné l'opinion publique à Samos, et c'est en présence de ces faits que le Consulat Royal vient prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien lui transmettre les ordres et instructions nécessaires pour ce qu'il doit faire.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) DENYS MARC.

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 163. Secret.)
My Lord, *Pera, February* 19, 1879.

THE Sultan invited me to the Palace yesterday to take leave of me before my departure for England. I availed myself of the occasion to speak very seriously to His Majesty on one or two subjects. I said that I did so as a true friend to himself and to Turkey, and because I should not have an opportunity of seeing him again for some time to come. I expressed my earnest hope that His Majesty would not make further important changes in his Ministry. He had, I observed, brought Haireddin Pasha from Tunis, and had named him Grand Vizier. He had done so because he had reason to believe that Haireddin Pasha was a wise and sagacious statesman, who could serve his Empire in the great crisis through which it was now passing. As yet there was every reason for His Majesty to be well satisfied with the choice that he had made. The settlement of many of the grave questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin had been effected, and the country was beginning to regain confidence in the Government. It was for His Majesty to ensure the complete success of the bold and unusual step that he had taken in thus placing a stranger at the head of affairs. If the experiment failed through any want of support given by His Majesty to Haireddin Pasha, or through the intrigues of those who were opposed to him, His Majesty would be held responsible for the failure, and there would be a very serious difficulty in finding men in whom His Majesty could have entire confidence competent to form a new Ministry.

The Sultan replied that he was well satisfied with the progress of affairs, and with the manner in which Haireddin Pasha was discharging his duties. He could assure me that he had no intention whatever of making any further changes. He only regretted that in consequence of the determined opposition made, from personal motives, by the French Ambassador to Said Pasha, there was a want of that thorough unity in the Ministry which it was highly desirable should exist. His Majesty asked me whether I would not contribute to bring about a reconciliation between M. Fournier and Said Pasha. I replied that I had endeavoured to do so, but that unfortunately, owing to the very strong personal feelings on the part of M. Fournier in the matter, I had been unable to bring them together.

I next most strongly represented to His Majesty the absolute necessity of completing the lines of Tchataldja and Bulair. I reminded His Majesty that he had no longer the Danube for the protection of his Empire in Europe, and that now the Balkans could scarcely be considered capable of defence against an invading army. Not only could Russia throw an army into the European provinces of Turkey, but there would now be a Bulgarian army organized by Russian officers, and entirely in the interests of Russia. In addition, the danger of an insurrection in Eastern Roumelia must always be kept in view. Under these circumstances the lines of Tchataldja and Bulair must be considered the true and last defences of the Turkish Empire in Europe. Had His Majesty's orders been carried out, I said, these lines would now have been completed. His Majesty had been told that the work had not been done on account of want of money. I had the authority of Baker Pasha for stating that such was not the

case. It was not money that had been required, but the execution of His Majesty's commands during the time when troops in large numbers could have been employed in completing the lines had the military authorities thought fit to obey His Majesty's orders. I warned His Majesty that any Turkish Minister, however high his rank, who endeavoured to persuade His Majesty that it was unnecessary to complete these lines, and who advised that the works upon them should be suspended, was no friend of His Majesty, and might even be considered as a traitor to his country. This observation was meant to apply to Ghazi Osman Pasha, who, since he has been Minister of War, has entirely neglected the Tchataldja lines, and has now stopped the works altogether.

The Sultan replied that he was fully aware of the importance of putting and maintaining these defences in a complete state of efficiency, and that he was determined that they should be continued and finished under any circumstances.

The third point which I urged upon His Majesty was the great importance of an understanding with Austria, and of establishing the most friendly and intimate relations with her. To her assistance, I said, His Majesty must look for the maintenance of his authority in Europe, and for carrying out the Treaty of Berlin with regard to Eastern Roumelia—a matter of vital importance to the very existence of his Empire. His Majesty replied that, acting upon my advice, he had seen Count Zichy, and that he had issued orders to his Ministers to commence negotiations at once with the Austrian Ambassador for the conclusion of the Convention. He had every reason to hope that they would soon be brought to a satisfactory result.

The last subject which I brought to His Majesty's notice was the expediency of losing no time in restoring order and good government in his Asiatic possessions, and of taking measures for the efficient protection of the Christian populations. With these objects, His Majesty should introduce, without delay, the promised reforms. The Sultan replied that he had not forgotten his promises to me on this subject, and that his Ministers, by his orders, were occupying themselves with the matter, and progress had already been made in forming a gendarmerie, whilst steps were being taken to introduce the proposed reforms at once in Syria and in the Province of Kastambouli.

His Majesty said that now that the Russians were leaving his territories, and that he was about to receive from France the money which was required for withdrawing the caimé, he was much more hopeful of the future. There was only the question of Greece which gave him uneasiness. What did I advise him to do with regard to it? I replied that my advice to him, as it had been to his Ministers, was to make a generous and liberal offer to Greece, which would prove to Europe his desire to make fair concessions to that Power, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin.

Before leaving His Majesty, I asked permission to present Mr. Malet. His Majesty at once acquiesced, and received him very kindly, expressing his intention of communicating with him personally during my absence and of asking him to dinner.

When I was wishing His Majesty good-bye, he took his watch from his pocket and begged me to accept it in remembrance of him. He said it was of no value, having been made in Turkey; but as he had worn it himself he hoped that I would use it for his sake. He also gave Lady Layard, who, at his request, had accompanied me, a bracelet. I was unable to decline these presents under the circumstances. To-day His Majesty sent for Sir A. Sandison, to tell him that he had written down what I had said to him and had communicated it to the Grand Vizier, calling his Highness' serious attention to the advice and warnings that I had given. I regret that I am not well enough to describe to your Lordship at greater length the conversation which I had with His Majesty. I have only mentioned the subjects to which it referred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter and its inclosure which I have received from M. Fernandez, the Vice-President of the Turkish Branch of the

Universal Israelite Alliance, relative to the ill-treatment of a Jew by the authorities at Kirk-Kilissa. I also inclose copy of my reply to M. Fernandez.

I have, &c.
(For Sir A. H. Layard),
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

M. Fernandez to Sir A. H. Layard.

Alliance Israelite Universelle: Comité Regionale pour la Turquie, Constantinople, le 19 Février, 1879.

Excellence,

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous adresser copie d'une lettre qui nous a été envoyée par la communauté Israélite de quarante églises.

Nous nous abstenons de qualifier l'acte dont le Gouverneur Bulgare de cette ville s'est rendu coupable; mais comme le fait que nous signalons à votre bienveillante attention n'est pas un fait isolé, et comme plusieurs abus de ce genre se sont passés dans d'autres villes, nous nous permettons, Excellence, d'implorer en faveur de nos coreligionnaires de la Bulgarie votre puissante protection.

Le pays que vous représentez est le pays des nobles traditions, et vous ne voudriez pas, Excellence, qu'une faible et paisible minorité devint la victime de ceux qui ne savent pas user avec modération du pouvoir qu'ils tiennent entre les mains.

Nous avons adressé la même copie à MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche, de France, et d'Italie.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) S. FERNANDEZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

The Jews of Kirk-Kilissé to M. Fernandez.

Kirk-Kilissé, le 16 Février, 1879.

Monsieur,

NOUS Soussignés, membres de la communauté Israélite de Kirk-Kilissé, venons respectueusement porter à la connaissance du Comité Régional le fait suivant:—

Depuis que les Bulgares sont devenus les maîtres du pays, les Israélites sont maltraités par eux; le fait suivant, qui en est une preuve évidente, vient de se passer tout récemment, sans que nous ayons eu le courage d'en demander raison.

Un Israélite pauvre nommé Aron Rodite s'associe avec un Grec et ils achetèrent d'un berger une vingtaine de moutons. Le propriétaire des moutons porte plainte contre les deux acheteurs qui furent mis en prison, et obligés de payer au propriétaire deux fois le double du prix des moutons. Le Grec qui était dans l'impossibilité de payer l'amende exigée par le Gouverneur Bulgare, fut relâché, tandisque l'Israélite, qui est également pauvre et qui a une nombreuse famille, dût rester en prison. Sa femme pour le délivrer vendit une partie de ses habits, et aidée de ses parents elle parvint à ramasser 25 roubles d'argent. Elle chargea le Moukhtar et un notable Israélite de remettre au Chef des Gendarmes l'amende exigée, afin qu'il rende la liberté à son mari; le Vendredi, 14 courant, il sortit de prison malade. Le lendemain, Samedi, à la sortie de la synagogue, Aron Rodite fut de nouveau arrêté sur l'ordre du Gouverneur Bulgare et amené chez ce dernier. Celui-ci le fit déshabiller et frapper jusqu'à ce qu'il s'évanouit.

Les parents, instruits de ce qui se passait, se rendent chez le Gouverneur et ramènent leur frère à demi-mort. Les médecins Russes que l'on appela lui donnèrent tous les soins qu'exigeait son état. Le Gouverneur envoya une autre fois les gendarmes pour s'emparer du pauvre juif. Les gendarmes voyant dans quel état il se trouvait en eurent pitié et s'en furent rendre compte au Natchalnik de ce qu'ils avaient vu.

Sur la demande de tous les Israélites notables se rendirent auprès du Gouverneur accompagnés du Rabbin, et lui demandèrent la raison de sa conduite. "Allez-vous en, si vous ne voulez pas être traités comme votre coreligionnaire," telle fut la réponse qu'ils obtinrent du Gouverneur. Les notables se retirèrent effrayés de ces paroles menaçantes.

Il est triste de voir qu'on nous maltraite ainsi parceque nous sommes Israélites. Nous espérons que l'Alliance Israélite nous viendra en aide, et nous protégera contre nos persécuteurs et obtiendra pour nous les mêmes droits que ceux dont jouissent nos concitoyens.

Dans l'espoir que notre demande sera prise en considération, veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RAHOUMISI J. MITRANI, *Président.*
JOSUAH RODRIKO, *Secrétaire.*
ABRAM PARDON,
SELOMO B. SAMUEL,
ABRAM B. ISAC,
EZRA RODRIKO,
ISAC MITRANI,
SELOMO RODRIKO, *Membres.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to M. Fernandez.

British Embassy, February 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE read with the greatest indignation the account of the ill-treatment of the unfortunate Israelite which you have sent me. Unhappily, as the occurrence took place at Kirk-Kilissa, which is now within Russian jurisdiction, and the persons who have been guilty of the act of cruelty which you bring to my notice are Bulgarian Christians invested with authority, I can do nothing in this case. The only way to obtain protection and justice for the Israelites is by bringing such outrages as those described in the letter from the Jews of Kirk-Kilissa before the public opinion of Europe through the press. It is to be hoped that when Turkish authority is restored in Roumelia, the freedom formerly enjoyed by the Israelites will be restored to them, and that they will no longer be persecuted.

I shall transmit your letter to Lord Salisbury in the hope that it will be found possible to make some representations in favour of your suffering fellow-citizens.

Assuring you of my sincere sympathy for them, I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 166.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 158 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Dragoman Préziosi, reporting the result of his interview with the Bulgarian girl Stefanaka Vassilewa, at Princess Kiamil's house at Bebek. Your Lordship will perceive that under the circumstances I can take no further steps in the matter.

I have, &c.
(For Sir A. H. Layard),
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Memorandum.

CONFORMÉMENT aux instructions que j'ai reçues de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, je me suis rendu hier au siège des autorités ecclésiastiques Bulgares à Ortakeui pour les informer de la présence d'une jeune fille Bulgare, originaire de Rustchuk, dans la maison de feu Kiamil Pacha, et leur demander de me faire accompagner par un prêtre de leur communauté, la Princesse étant disposée à faire la remise de la jeune fille à la personne qui se présenterait de la part de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté.

Là j'ai appris que l'Exarque avait quitté Constantinople avec tout son entourage

pour aller fixer sa résidence à Philippopoli, n'ayant laissé personne pour le représenter ici. J'ai dû par conséquent me rendre seul au konak de Kiamil Pacha, dans le but de prendre la jeune fille et la conduire au Patriarcat Grec-Orthodox.

Madame Kiamil Pacha m'a de suite fait mettre en relations avec la fille Bulgare.

Il résulte de notre conversation qu'elle semble très contente de la situation qui lui est faite. Elle m'a dit que ses parents sont Bulgares, mais qu'elle s'est convertie à l'Islamisme à l'école Musulmane de Roustchouk, où elle est entrée à l'âge de 7 ans, et qu'elle n'a quittée que pour venir à Constantinople, n'ayant dans cet intervalle vu que très rarement ses parents, qui allaient de temps à autre la visiter à l'école, mais chez lesquels elle n'a jamais été. Elle est aujourd'hui âgée de 16 ans. Elle est arrivée dans la capitale avec toutes ses camarades au commencement de la guerre, et Edhem Pacha, alors Grand Vizir, a fait loger ces jeunes filles dans les principales familles Turques de Stamboul.

Je lui ai proposé de venir avec moi au Patriarcat Grec, accompagnée de quelqu'un de la maison, pour répondre aux questions qu'on pourrait lui poser. Elle a catégoriquement refusé de me suivre sous prétexte qu'elle n'avait rien à démêler avec les prêtres, et elle a ajouté que si l'on tenait à la conduire quelque part, elle n'irait qu'à la Sublime Porte, qui est la seule autorité qu'elle reconnaît. J'ai fait alors demander à la Princesse de vouloir ordonner à la jeune fille de me suivre, du moment où elle avait déclaré être prête à la donner. Madame Kiamil m'a fait répondre qu'elle était toujours animée des mêmes sentiments, que la jeune fille était à ma disposition, mais qu'elle la laissait entièrement libre de prendre le parti qu'elle voudrait, ne pouvant pas la forcer de partir comme ne voulant pas la forcer de rester. La jeune fille enhardie par cette réponse a persisté dans son refus de quitter la maison, disant qu'elle y était parfaitement heureuse et qu'elle ne demandait rien à personne.

Je dois dire que les personnes présentes, parmi lesquelles se trouvait l'intendant de la Princesse, ont essayé de me faciliter la tâche, en donnant à la jeune fille le conseil de me suivre, lui disant qu'il ne lui serait fait aucun mal, qu'on ne la garderait pas au patriarcat par force, et moi-même je me suis engagé vis-à-vis d'elle de la ramener au konak ; mais rien n'y a fait, elle n'a voulu à aucun prix consentir à sortir de la maison, disant que tant qu'elle serait vivante on ne pourra la forcer d'aller nulle part.

Devant cette attitude je me suis rendu au Patriarcat Œcuménique pour le mettre au courant des faits qui précèdent. Le Patriarche étant absent depuis quelques jours, j'ai entretenu le Grand Vicaire, Chef de la Chancellerie, du but de ma visite. Celui-ci m'a répondu qu'il regrettait de ne pouvoir prendre aucune décision à cet égard, en l'absence de sa Sainteté ; mais qu'il pourrait m'assurer d'avance, que, du moment où la jeune fille refusa de quitter la maison où elle se trouvait, ils n'avaient en leur pouvoir aucun moyen pour l'y forcer, à moins que son père n'adressât une requête au Patriarcat pour réclamer son enfant : du reste, il a ajouté qu'ils ne pourraient s'occuper de cette affaire que dans le cas où la jeune fille serait Grecque-Orthodoxe de religion et ne relèverait pas de l'Église Bulgare.

(Signé) R. PRÉZIOSI.

Constantinople, le 19 Février, 1879.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 167. Very Confidential.)
Pera, February 20, 1879.

My Lord,

RUSTEM PASHA, when speaking to me this morning of his appointment as Governor-General of the Province of Eastern Roumelia, expressed his earnest hope that, until he was able to take possession of his new Government, he should not be deprived of his present office in Mount Lebanon. He said that his reason for wishing to retain as long as possible his title of Governor-General of Mount Lebanon, even if he did not return there, was to avoid giving a pretext to the Maronite clergy to make the people of the Mountain believe, as they were endeavouring to do, that he had been dismissed on account of his conduct in the affair of Bishop Bistany, and upon the demand of the French Government. This would be giving a triumph to the Maronite clergy, which could not but lead in the end to disastrous results. He had, he went on to say, striven during the six years that he had held the Governorship of the Mountain to treat the various populations with perfect justice and impartiality, and to restrain

the Roman Catholic clergy, who had always aimed at obtaining exclusive arbitrary power, in order to oppress and persecute the other communities. He had been successful. He had kept the Maronite clergy in their proper places, and Druses, Mussulmans, Protestants, Orthodox Greeks, and all other sects were perfectly satisfied and contented with their condition, and with the perfect religious freedom they enjoyed. The authority and prestige of the Porte had at the same time been re-established in the Mountain. He had asked M. Fournier whether the French Government had any grounds whatever of complaint against him, and the Ambassador felt bound to answer that he knew of none whatever, and that he could express his complete satisfaction at his (Rustem Pasha's) conduct. This being the case, he could not understand how it was that the French Government had recently returned to its ancient policy of supporting the Maronite clergy. A number of Maronite priests had been to France, amongst them the brother of Bishop Dibbs, to agitate against him, and they had succeeded, by circulating all manner of calumnies and mis-statements, in persuading French Roman Catholics that the Maronite clergy were ill-treated and oppressed, and that the Maronites were suffering from the effects of bad government. Pressure had, no doubt, been brought to bear upon the French Government by the Clerical party, and M. Waddington had determined to have him removed and replaced by Nasri Bey, who would be a mere tool in the hands of the Maronite clergy. The result would be that they would again obtain that ascendancy in the Mountain that it had taken him six years to put an end to, that all the other populations would be subject to persecution, and would be discontented, and the prestige and authority of the Porte would suffer, not only in the Mountain but in other parts of Syria. If his removal from the Lebanon were to have that result it was, Rustem Pasha thought, much to be deplored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 169.)
Pera, February 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, reporting the circumstances connected with an attack on the Greek Archbishop, and his brutal ill-treatment by a Bulgarian mob at Adrianople. Mr. Calvert informed me by telegraph yesterday that all the persons arrested in consequence have been released by the Russian authorities.

I have, &c.
(For Sir A. H. Layard),
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, February 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following circumstances in connection with the impending evacuation of Adrianople.

Raouf Pasha and his staff arrived here on the evening of the 11th instant. General Todleben had left this for Constantinople on the morning of the same day, and the Turkish Vali and the Russian Commander-in-chief, having met at the Tchorlu railway station, dined there together. Raouf Pasha on reaching Adrianople put up at a private house, where, the day after, he received the visits of the spiritual Chiefs of the various communities and those of the Consular body. On the 14th instant the Vali returned the visits of the Greek Archbishop and the Bulgarian and Armenian Bishops. Although his Excellency's reception of the Consuls was most courteous and friendly, he has, for some unknown reason, not yet returned any of their visits.

General Todleben having come back from Constantinople on Friday night, the 14th instant, the Vali and the Commander-in-chief exchanged visits the next day,

Raouf Pasha calling first. In the evening the Pasha attended the usual weekly concert given at the Government konak by the "Russian Society of Adrianople."

Yesterday afternoon, the 18th instant, a crowd of about 150 Bulgarians, men and women, assembled in the courtyard of the konak, clamouring that they would not allow the Turks to return. The Russian Governor coming out exhorted the crowd to disperse, and advised them to formulate their wishes in a written document to be presented by a few chosen delegates. The crowd upon this retired, but only to invade the Greek Metropolitan residence, where the Archbishop and the Demogerontes of the community were at that moment assembled in conference. The Archbishop came to the head of the entrance staircase to learn what was the matter. The mob on seeing his Eminence exclaimed that it was he who had brought about the return of the Turks, and, rushing up, seized him, and beat him with some thick sticks which they carried. They treated in like manner M. Hadji Kruniti, a nephew of the Archbishop's, and M. Nikita, a member of the Council of the Greek community. Not content with these barbarous proceedings, they seized the Archbishop by the feet and dragged him down the staircase across the courtyard, and some little distance along the street. Here his Eminence was rescued from further ill-treatment by a Russian superior officer who happened to be passing by.

General Molostvoff, the Governor, having been apprised of the occurrence, repaired to the Metropolitan residence, and immediately caused thirty-four persons to be arrested. These are now being tried by Court-martial. General Molostvoff begged M. Ghennadis, the Greek Consul, who had likewise repaired to the spot, to use his best endeavours to pacify the Greek community of the town, who are numerically far stronger than the Bulgarians, and who are naturally highly exasperated, and are threatening reprisals. The General promised at the same time that those who should be found guilty of participation in this brutal outrage would be punished in the most exemplary manner.

The Demogerontes of the Greek community have meanwhile addressed a protest on the subject to the Commander-in-chief. I beg leave to inclose a copy of this document, which has been communicated by them to-day to the foreign Consuls for transmission to their respective Embassies.

I am happy to state that the Archbishop's hurts, though severe, are not of a serious character.

It is to be feared that we are not at an end of these disorders, for the Bulgarians openly declare that they are prepared to do worse if the return of the Turks is persisted in; and this afternoon another demonstration was made in the courtyard of the konak by a yet larger and more excited crowd than that of yesterday. Their numbers are believed to have been recruited from the rural districts. It is averred that a certain number of Greeks were mixed with the Bulgarians on this occasion; but I am unable to say what truth there may be in the assertion. There is a considerable section of the Orthodox community in this province, as in Eastern Roumelia, who are of Bulgarian extraction, but whose nationality is undetermined, and who, being more or less Hellenized, are claimed as Greeks one day and repudiated another, as occasion may require; and it is probably persons of this class that are here in question. The fact of Greek participation in the present anti-Turkish movement is strenuously denied by the Hellenic Consul and the leading members of the native Greek community.

General Todleben, accompanied by Raouf Pasha, presented himself to the crowd, who were only pacified on receiving the assurance (conveyed to them through General Molostvoff) that the Commander-in-chief was powerless to give them a definite answer, that the matter would be referred by him to a high quarter, from whence a reply could not be expected before another four or five days. This declaration appears to have satisfied the mob, for they received it with loud cheers, and at once dispersed.

In the meanwhile the work of evacuation is to all appearance being carried out in earnest, for the 1st division of the 4th Army Corps (under the command of General Skobeleff) arrived here to-day from Demotica, where it was lately quartered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

The Demogerontes of the Greek Community to General Todleben.

Andrinople, le $\frac{4}{16}$ *Février*, 1879.

Excellence,

LES Soussignés, Demogérontes représentant la Communauté Grecque, ont l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence qu'un grand nombre d'hommes et de femmes Bulgares s'étant réunis dans la cour du konak où les autorités administratives Russes sont installées, se sont dirigés à la Métropole Orthodoxe avec de grand bâtons dans les mains, et après en avoir forcé les portes ont cherché d'abord notre Métropolitain; puis à la présence [*sic*] de son Eminence ils ont commencé à le battre impitoyablement, et ils auraient même massacré les prêtres et les Démogérontes, qui dans cette heure là tenaient séance et qui se sont accourus pour sauver son Eminence, s'ils n'avaient pas prévenu de se disperser çà et là, et quelques uns d'eux ont été couverts des blessures nombreuses et leur vie est en danger.

Après cette conduite vandalique et tout à fait barbare et inhumain, ils ont commencé à battre de nouveau son Eminence en le trainant des cheveux et des pieds sur l'escalier et de là dans les rues avec l'intention de l'achever sans doute, lorsqu'un Général Russe passant de la même rue l'a délivré des mains des scélérats.

Nous ne pouvons pas faire une description de la santé de notre Métropolitain; Messieurs les Docteurs qui le traitent sont au même de vous en rapporter les détails.

En portant à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce fait inique, qui est une offense contre la religion Orthodoxe et contre notre nation, nous vous prions de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires pour qu'une satisfaction éclatante soit accordée à notre Archévêque, chef de notre nation, qui proteste contre ces actes sauvages de la part des Bulgares, en demandant au nom de la justice et au nom de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Orthodoxe de toutes les Russes la punition exemplaire de ces sacrilèges.

Nous avons, &c.

Les Démogérontes de la Communauté Orthodoxe Grecque,
(L.S.) Signatures.

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 171.)

Constantinople, February 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Salonica, Bourgas, and Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(For Sir A. H. Layard),
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, February 4, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 2nd July, 1878, and my Report of the same date, relative to the twelve individuals undergoing sentences of the local Court-martial for guilty implication in the late insurrectionary movements in Thessaly, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the late Commander-in-chief, Ali Saib Pasha, having, upon my representations, referred their case to the War Office, a telegraphic order has at last reached the military authorities here, directing them to discharge the prisoners in question.

This order has been carried out, but I regret to say that a few days before its receipt one of the prisoners, a Turk, died of small-pox, with which the local prison was infected at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, February 4, 1879.

Sir,

I AM assured that the inclosed is a copy of the telegram which was forwarded, as I announced to your Excellency in my telegram of the 2nd instant, by the Turkish community of Prevesa, to the British, Austrian, French, German, Italian, and Russian Governments, protesting against the proposed annexation of their district to Greece.

I have not yet heard anything certain in connection with the Mixed Commission for the delimitation of the Greco-Turkish frontiers, further than the arrival at Prevesa of the Hellenic members of the Commission, which I reported to your Excellency in my telegram of the 27th ultimo, and the departure for that place of Colonel Mustapha Bey and Hadji Abdullah Bey, who have been selected by the Governor of Larissa to attend upon the Ottoman Commissioners and give them the benefit of their advice and long experience of Thessaly.

The Turkish inhabitants of this province continue quiet and tranquil. The local Beys, however, from all I hear and observe, are very anxious as to the result of the Commission. Some of them have asked me if they can be admitted to British protection, but I have given them no encouragement in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Telegram from the Turkish Community of Prevesa.

Aux Ministres des Affaires Etrangères à Londres, Vienne, Paris, Berlin, Rome, et St. Pétersbourg.

Prevesa, le 31 *Janvier*, 1879.

AVONS l'honneur porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que les Commissaires Turcs et Hellènes sont arrivés à Prevesa.

Excellence, pendant que notre existence nationale et politique se trouvent en danger l'effervescence des esprits en Albanie est toute naturelle: d'un côté l'amour d'une co-existence de quatre siècles qui nous rattache au Gouvernement Ottoman, et d'autre côté la connaissance que nous avons de la Grèce, nous indiquent que si sans la forme d'une rectification de frontières la perte d'une partie de notre pays se réalisait, l'annexion à la Grèce apporterait infailliblement tôt ou tard notre anéantissement. Par conséquent il nous est préférable de nous sacrifier pour protéger notre existence présente et future, que d'être livrés à la Grèce dont l'indépendance a été inaugurée par l'expulsion de l'élément qui y figurait pour le tiers de la population.

Nous espérons que les sentiments philanthropiques et les lumières de votre Excellence ne permettront pas notre démembrement, qui serait suivi de troubles inévitables, et épargneront à la nation Albanaise la fâcheuse nécessité de se jeter dans une lutte dont on ne peut prévoir les terribles conséquences.

(Suivent les signatures de la Communauté de Prevesa.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, February 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copies of a letter and its inclosure which the Hellenic Consul here has received from Colonel Liacopoulo, the Commander of the Hellenic frontier troops, and communicated to the Commander-in-chief, Abdi Pasha, proposing a conference with the Ottoman authorities relative to the best means to be adopted on both sides for the suppression of brigandage and disorders on the Greco-Turkish frontier.

It appears that at first Abdi Pasha evinced considerable hesitation to entertain the above proposal; and, at the request of the Hellenic Consul, I availed myself of an early opportunity to recommend the matter to the serious consideration of his Excellency, and I ventured to tell him that I did not conceive that there existed any

objections to his approving and carrying out a project likely to lead to the adoption of joint and stringent action against brigandage. Said Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, who was present at my interview, also concurred in the general principle of the measure; and Abdi Pasha replied that, although he did not anticipate that much advantage would result from the proposed conference, he agreed with Said Pasha and me that Colonel Liacopoulo's offer, as suggested in the correspondence I have inclosed, should be accepted, and said that he would call upon his Council of War to prepare a Report upon the subject, and draw up instructions for the guidance of the officer who may be selected, after reference by telegraph to the Minister for War, to meet Colonel Liacopoulo.

As I have pointed out in some of my previous Reports to your Excellency, it is only through a joint and cordial action of the Ottoman and Hellenic authorities that brigandage can be suppressed on the Greco-Turkish boundary; and it was in the hope of contributing towards the attainment of an object of such importance to the tranquillity of both countries that I have ventured to give my support to Colonel Liacopoulo's proposal, the more so as for some weeks past brigandage has been increasing in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 37.

Colonel Liacopoulo to M. Palamides.

(Traduction.)

Lamie, le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Janvier*, 1879.

M. le Consul,

NOTRE Gouvernement s'occupant, comme vous savez, continuellement de l'affermissement définitif de la sûreté publique sur la ligne-frontière, nous a ordonné de nouveau à prendre le plus tôt possible les mesures les plus promptes et efficaces qui, d'un commun accord avec les autorités Ottomanes, seraient considérées comme nécessaires pour ce but.

Sur ce sujet nous nous sommes entendus aujourd'hui avec le Consul de la Sublime Porte, M. Agop-Eram, pour qu'il s'entende avec les autorités Ottomanes pour la fixation du jour et du lieu de l'entrevue. En portant cela à votre connaissance, M. le Consul, nous vous prions de faire tout votre possible près des autorités Ottomanes pour faciliter cette entrevue, qui est très-nécessaire et importante pour la réussite du but proposé.

Nous vous envoyons en même temps copie de notre lettre que nous avons adressés à M. Agop-Eram, Consul de la Sublime Porte.

Agréez, &c.
Le Commandant des Forces Militaires,
(Signé) Colonel LIACOPOULO.

Inclosure 6 in No. 37.

Colonel Liacopoulo to M. Agop Eram.

(Traduction.)

Lamie, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Janvier*, 1879.

M. le Consul,

NOTRE Gouvernement continuant à s'occuper et à prendre les plus grands soins pour l'établissement de la sûreté publique sur la ligne-frontière, nous a mis en tête de l'autorité judiciaire et militaire, et nous a permis de nous entendre avec les autorités judiciaires et militaires du Sandjak de la Thessalie pour les mesures qui, de concert avec elles, et pour l'intérêt commun des deux pays, seraient considérées comme propres et indispensables à prendre pour la réussite du but proposé.

En portant à votre connaissance cette intention de notre Gouvernement nous vous prions, M. le Consul, d'avoir l'obligeance de vous entendre avec les autorités supérieures du Sandjak de la Thessalie, et nous faire connaître si elles acceptent cette mesure, et en ce cas de nous faire savoir en même temps le jour et le lieu de l'entrevue.

Selon nous la Sainte Abbaye d'Antinitza, située sur la ligne-frontière, serait propre pour l'entrevue, si les autorités Ottomanes n'ont à proposer un autre lieu comme plus opportun.

Nous vous serons infiniment obligés, M. le Consul, si vous voudriez bien faire transmettre la réponse des autorités supérieures Ottomanes le plus tôt possible à cause de l'urgence de l'affaire.

Agréez, &c.
Le Commandant des Forces Militaires,
(Signé) Colonel LIACOPOULO.
Le Procureur du Roi,
M. CIRGOUSSIO.

Inclosure 7 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, February* 11, 1879.

YESTERDAY I forwarded to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"Five battalions of infantry in Thessaly, recruited in districts ceded by Berlin Treaty to Roumania, are under orders to proceed to Constantinople to be dismissed to their homes. Eight battalions in Province of Salonica, recruited in Bulgaria and districts ceded to Servia, are also to be dismissed."

The following is a list of the five battalions with the number of men in each that are about to be dispatched to Constantinople for the purpose mentioned in my telegram:—

		Men.
Hezargrad.	Tâala	537
,,	Mukadem	472
,,	Mustahfiz	693
Silistria.	Mustahfiz	457
Tirnova.	Mukadem	610
	Total	2,769

Of the eight battalions that are to be dismissed in the Province of Salonica, I have been able to obtain the list of four only, as follows:—

		Men.
Loftcha.	Tâala	400
,,	Mukadem	300
Silistria.	Tâala	563
Shumla.	Mukadem	621
	Total	1,884

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, February* 11, 1879.

THE Commander-in-chief, Abdi Pasha, has spoken to me on the subject of the non-execution of the Convention between Turkey and Greece relative to the mutual surrender of military deserters.

In my despatches to your Excellency of the 7th and 22nd August, 1878, I mentioned that the military authorities in Thessaly had surrendered to those in Greece a considerable number of deserters from the Hellenic army who had taken refuge in this province; and in that of the 31st of the same month I reported that, in consequence of the Hellenic authorities not carrying out their part of the Convention, orders had been received here from the Minister for War not to deliver up to them in future any deserters who may come over from Greece.

Abdi Pasha, in referring to the subject, told me that the Hellenic Consul here, M. Palamides, has recently sent him a formal application for the delivery up to him, in conformity with the Convention in question, of ten deserters from the Hellenic army who took refuge in the district of Armyro, in Thessaly, towards the end of last month; and, upon his Excellency consulting me as to the answer he should give to this application, I remarked to him that the fact of the Hellenic Consul having based

his demand upon the Convention implied that the Hellenic Government was prepared to carry out the compact in regard to Turkish deserters; and I suggested to his Excellency the expediency of his embracing the opportunity to address a communication to the Consul—should the orders from the War Office admit of such a course—conveying the assurance that the Hellenic deserters will be properly secured, and that they will be delivered up to him immediately the Turkish deserters now in Greece are surrendered to the Turkish frontier authorities. And upon his Excellency telling me that he approved and would follow my suggestion, I mentioned the subject to M. Palamides, when I was assured by him that, if a formal requisition were addressed to his Government either through him, or through the Ottoman Legation at Athens, he had no doubt it would be complied with.

I have, however, heard that several of the Turkish deserters in Greece have become Christians, and are enrolled in the Hellenic army.

If this is true, and I have reason to believe it to be true, it goes far to explain the reluctance hitherto evinced by the Hellenic Government to surrender them to the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 37.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, February* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, on the subject of the proposal made by the Hellenic frontier authorities to the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly to confer and to concert together as to the best measures to be adopted on both sides for the suppression of brigandage on the border, I regret having to further report to your Excellency that telegraphic intelligence of a very serious act of brigandage having been committed in the Agrapha Mountains was received yesterday evening from Ahmet Fazli Pasha, the Major-General in command of the troops in the district of Tricalla in this province.

The following is a translation of the copy of the telegram in Turkish from Ahmet Fazli Pasha to the Commander-in-chief here, which the latter kindly communicated to me:—

"*Tricalla, February* 10, 1879.—Early this morning a band composed of about sixty brigands surrounded the village of Tirna, in Nahia of Porta, three hours from the Pass of Porta, and upon firing on the villagers the latter took to their arms and defended themselves. One of the brigands and one of the villagers were killed. The loyal villagers of Dramisdi* went to the assistance of those of Tirna, but, unfortunately, before they reached the spot the brigands had succeeded in seizing and carrying off as hostages to the mountains in the direction of the west some fifty young people. They also burned several houses of the village of Tirna.

"Upon learning these facts I immediately dispatched in pursuit of the brigands Colonel Shemshi Boy with eight companies of troops, and I shall report the result to your Excellency."

A telegram has been dispatched to Ahmet Fazli Pasha to conduct his operations against these robbers with the greatest care and circumspection, in order to avoid endangering the lives of the unfortunate young hostages.

The above circumstance induced me to forward to your Excellency about an hour ago a telegraphic despatch worded as follows:—

"Hellenic frontier authorities have formally proposed to Ottoman authorities in Thessaly to confer together as to best measures to be adopted on both sides for suppression of brigandage on border.

"Ottoman authorities referred matter to Porte telegraphically about a week ago, but have received no answer.

"It is urgent and politic to accept above proposal, as there are serious symptoms of increase of disorders on the frontier.

"On 10th instant sixty brigands surrounded Christian village of Tirna, and, after serious fight with the villagers, they set fire to it and carried off to the mountains fifty young people as hostages."

* Dramisdi contains twenty-six houses, and is about five hours from the town of Tricalla. Tirna contains seventy houses, and is six hours from Tricalla. Both villages are exclusively inhabited by Christians.—J. E. B.

In some of my recent despatches I reported to your Excellency that the National Defence Committee in Greece ("Amina") had dispatched secret agents to recall the bands of brigands, or so-called insurgents, whom they had recruited and employed in creating disturbances in Thessaly and Macedonia. It appears that many of these bands have obeyed the summons, and that some of them while on their way homeward have committed serious depredations on the unoffensive Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants of this province.

I am told that the ingathering of so many lawless characters has been spreading alarm among the inhabitants of Greece, which, if true, explains the anxiety of the Hellenic authorities to take joint measures of public security with the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 37.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, February 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that our Governor-General, Halil Rifaat Pasha, has written to me officially to the following effect:—

That having received an intimation from the Military Commander, Salih Pasha, of the necessity of every person carrying a lantern at night, his Excellency requests that British subjects should be informed that if they be found without lanterns they will be conducted to the guard-houses and imprisoned. And also that no public-houses shall be open after 1 o'clock A.M.

The reason assigned for these regulations is martial law, which is still in force. His Excellency, I believe, does not think them necessary, as I hear from the Dragoman he has telegraphed to the Porte for a counter-order; because, it seems, the rules of the Turkish service prevent his interference with military matters.

I replied by letter to his Excellency that there are no public-houses in this city which are owned or conducted by British subjects, and I requested his Excellency to give orders to the police officers to conduct to the Consulate any British subjects found without lanterns, and not to the guard-houses.

There has been a report circulated here of a very fatal epidemic disorder in this vilayet which fear has called "the plague," but the Vali declares it to be nothing serious and to have passed away altogether.

The French ship of war "Latouche Treville" has returned here from Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER

Inclosure 11 in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, February 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the substance of information which I have lately received from the Cazas of Achialo and Messevria, illustrative of the manner in which the Bulgarian authorities of those districts tyrannize over their Mussulman and Greek fellow-countrymen.

The Greeks complain that they are not allowed to purchase the property of Mussulmans leaving the country, which property is always claimed by the authorities as "abandoned," and although Bulgarians are permitted to buy as they like, they, the Greeks, are compelled either to give up the goods they have paid for to the Bulgarian authorities, or to pay a sum equal to that already received from them by the original owners. Of this the following examples, which I am assured could be multiplied indefinitely, have been given me:—

Adam, a Greek of Akdéré, purchased several head of cattle from a Turk of Gumzeki, and was obliged to give them all up to the Bulgarian authorities of Achialo.

Skuli, a Greek of Messevria, was prosecuted for buying 100 bushels of wheat from the above-named Bechman Aga, and was obliged to pay the value to the same authorities.

A Greek of Akdéré purchased hay to the amount of 24*l.* from the Tartar village of Kouron-Keui, and obtained from the authorities of Varna a legalized certificate proving the *bonâ fide* nature of the transaction; in spite of this he was imprisoned at Achialo until he paid the authorities there a similar sum of 24*l.*

Greek villagers are daily ill-treated, oppressed, and robbed by the Bulgarian police, who seize on every opportunity of extorting money from them on frivolous pretences, such as fines for not producing eggs, butter, milk, &c., within a few minutes of their being requisitioned by the same policemen for their own use. The disarmament of the Greek villagers seems to have been carried out with unnecessary hardship, and the arms seized were openly distributed among the Bulgarian peasants.

Scarcely any cattle remain in the Mussulman villages, and have also been stolen from the Greeks by organized bands of Bulgarian robbers, who are screened, protected, and, it is averred, employed by the police of Achialo. These cattle are driven off to Yamboli and there sold.

In these districts, as nearly everywhere else, the conduct of the Bulgarian police appears to be infinitely more corrupt, lawless, and brutal than that of the Turkish zaptiehs. They live at rack and manger upon the Greek and Mussulman population, levying fines, which they put into their own pockets, and inflicting personal chastisement at will.

The chief police officer of these cazas was for many months a certain Christo Brakaloff, of Kalofer, brother of Dimitri Brakaloff, the Bulgarian President of the Achialo Council. The following instances will show how he fulfilled his duty:—

At the Greek village of Bana, the head-man, Zacharia, 65 years old, came out to meet Brakaloff, saying "You are welcome," in Romaic. Brakaloff immediately ordered two of his policemen to seize and beat the man for daring "to speak to him in a language only fit for swine." Zacharia was confined to his bed for ten days.

At the Mussulman village of Chelch-keui, Brakaloff demanded a sum of 51 piastres from Suleiman Effendi as tithe on indian corn grown in his garden; on the man's venturing to say that the whole crop was not worth so much, he was seized, beaten, and fined 84 fr.

At the Turkish village of Guenzeki, the wife of a peasant named Ahmet refused to give a fowl to a policeman accompanying Brakaloff, on the ground that she had only five. The woman was arrested, and the husband, who was cutting wood in the forest, was sent for. On his arrival Brakaloff ordered his policemen to beat the man with hedge stakes.

At Geuzeki, Brakaloff violated a Turkish woman in the most brutal manner, as he did a Greek woman in the village of Akdéré.

From the village of Akdéré Brakaloff sent three policemen to arrest, at the village of Yeni-keui, a Turkish lad of 16. These men were seen to leave the village with the lad, and their prisoner's body was found next morning on the road to Akdéré literally cut and hacked into small pieces. Owing to the representations of some of the Greeks of Achialo, Brakaloff, the President of the Council, was forced to make a semblance of inquiry, and consequently one of the policemen, the Greek, was arrested; he is still in prison, but has never even been examined, as it is feared his avowals may criminate his Bulgarian comrades.

Many and serious accusations were laid before the authorities against this Christo Brakaloff, but owing to his brother's influence nothing was done; at last, however, the Governor of Slimnia gave an order for his arrest, and he, being warned by his brother, fled the country.

In the purely Greek town of Messevria a Bulgarian of Tirnova, Petaki Marchakoff, was appointed as Sub-Governor, but so many authenticated charges of stealing cattle and money and violating women were brought against him, that an order arrived from Slimnia to arrest him and his two brothers as accomplices. These men, however, were also warned in time and disappeared.

I have the honour to inclose a Turkish document from six villages in the Caza of Aidos, viz., Kenpri-keui, Gaudy-keui, Memish Aga, Tchiflishi, complaining of their being attacked, as they returned from transporting Russian army stores, by Bulgar from Erketch, Soudjoulou, and other villages, who carried off all their cattle and beat them severely.

The complaint was forwarded to the Russian officer in command at Arpadjik, who remarked that it was an affair for the police and not for him. Unfortunately for the Turks, the Russians consider any attack upon Mussulmans by Bulgarians as an

outrage to be repressed by the Bulgarian police, whilst any alleged crime by Mussulmans is almost invariably inquired into by the Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BROPHY.

Inclosure 12 in No. 37.

Complaint from the Inhabitants of the Villages of Keupru, Sandictchi, Poutrashan, Mehmed-Agha, Tchiftilighi, Cavanloue, and Kurt Tchiftilighi.

(Traduction.)

ILS se plaignent de ce que les autorités Russes du district d'Aïdos, dont dépendent tous ces villages, forcent les habitants à transporter avec leurs chariots tous les approvisionnements d'herbe et de fourrage dont ils ont besoin, dans les localités qu'ils leur désignent; et qu'un jour après en avoir donné livraison, ils ont été à leur retour attaqués sur la route par des Bulgares, qui leur ont pris de force leurs bœufs et les ont eux-mêmes battus d'importance. Ils ajoutent que deux individus de Keupru et de Sandictchi ont servi de guides aux Russes pour les conduire vers les agresseurs, et qu'en rentrant chez eux ils ont été attaqués par des Bulgares armés qui les ont battus. Tous les jours on leur vole des animaux et ils disent que cette situation est intolérable. Les coupables restent impunis et cela les encourage à renouveler leurs méfaits. D'après eux si les Russes n'autorisaient pas ces violences et ces actes de brigandage, les Bulgares n'oseraient pas les commettre. Ils ont adressé cette requête pour informer leur Souverain Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan qu'ils seront obligés de quitter leur pays pour chercher refuge ailleurs.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 25 Septembre, 1878.

Inclosure 13 in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, February 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Bulgarians of the town and district of Bourgas sent recently a young man named Photi Yanieff as their delegate to Tirnovo, with instructions to agitate for the union of East Roumelia with Bulgaria. At Slimnia, however, the Russian Governor, on learning his mission, sent for Yanieff, and forbade him to cross the Balkans, saying that East Roumelia had no claim to send representatives to Bulgaria, and that he had strict orders to prevent the passage of any such persons.

Delegates from other towns in East Roumelia were treated in the same manner, but I learn that the only effect upon the Bulgarians of this province is that they have resolved to send other emissaries by a different route.

Since the news of the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace all the male population of Slimnia and Yamboli are constantly being drilled to the use of arms; the reason they give, or that which is put into their mouths, is that they do not believe that "Europe" has either the will or the power to prevent them being exterminated by the Turks as soon as the Russians leave, and that they are therefore determined to resist the return of the Ottoman authorities "to the last drop of their blood."

The Governor of Slimnia is said to strongly discountenance this volunteer movement on the part of the Slimnistes, and to declare that his Government is determined not to support it. I am, however, able to state, on unexceptionable authority, that during the last week of January 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 rifle cartridges were landed at Tchinguene Skellesi from the Russian steamer "Belbek," and forwarded into the interior as a gift to the Bulgarians—not the Bulgarian militia—of Roumelia from the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 38.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 21, 1879.

ON the 29th January I forwarded, for your Lordship's information, an anticipatory estimate of the Revenue of the Turkish Empire for the years 1879-80.

I am now able to submit to your Lordship an abstract estimate, showing the amounts at which the Financial Reform Commission have estimated all the principal heads of revenue.

I also inclose an official estimate recently received from the Department of Indirect Contributions of the receipts of the several branches of Revenue controlled by that Department.

In regard to the latter statement, it may be observed that it is made by doubling, in the case of most of the provinces, the receipts of the first six months of the current year, and in the case of Constantinople, by adding one-half to the receipts of the first eight months of the year, although eleven months of the year have now elapsed.

The receipts of the first six, or summer, months of the official year commencing on the 13th March, no not form a safe basis for estimating the receipts of the entire year; but the statement is not without interest, as showing, especially under the head of "Customs," the proportion of the revenue contributed by the several provinces and outlying ports.

The total of the present estimate is almost exactly £ T. 1,400,000, an amount which is not likely to be modified materially by alterations in the heads remaining for consideration.

The above sum is about £ T. 780,000 less than the total of the provisional estimate which I forwarded on the 29th January.

The principal reductions are the following:—

	£ T.
Miscellaneous taxes or duties	85,000
Miscellaneous receipts	175,000
Customs	400,000
Tobacco	180,000
Salt	150,000
Telegraph	35,000
Cyprus	59,000
Total	1,384,000

The estimate which I first made of the receipts classed as "Miscellaneous Duties" was based on the actual receipts of the year 1876-77, with a sufficient reduction on account of lost territory. The present estimate is made on the average of the actual receipts of five years, after deducting the actual receipts in the lost provinces.

Nearly one-half of the receipts under this head consists of the revenue derived from fisheries; the remainder is composed of a great variety of local duties, duties on special industries, &c.

The following are included in it:—

Pasturage duties.
Sponge or pearl fisheries.
Town octroi.
Duties levied in lieu of customs at certain Arabian ports.
Duty on pilgrims returning from Mecca.
Receipts from Constantinople bridges.
Duties on construction of boats; manufacture of gold and silver ornaments; cloth dyeing, calico printing, &c., &c.

The reduction under "Miscellaneous Receipts" is to the extent of £ T. 75,000 nominal, that amount being the estimated produce and rents of Government farms and houses, having been put as a separate head, "Crown Lands," to which £ T. 10,000 has been added as the probable receipts from sales. The remaining receipts under this head I now find to be composed of a very uncertain character, such as interest on tithe instalments in arrear, profit (so-called) from differences in the rates at which silver coin is received and issued, unclaimed property, fines on stray cattle, sales of gunpowder, sales of Government publications, and the like. The reduction of £ T. 100,000 is desirable, having regard to the great uncertainty of the receipts.

In customs a reduction has been made of £ T. 400,000. The returns from this branch of revenue depend entirely on the efficiency of the arrangements for the collection of the Tariff duties.

It can scarcely be doubted that the revenue ought to amount to at least £ T. 2,000,000. An estimate on the basis of the collection of recent years is considered to justify an estimate of £ T. 1,400,000, which has been increased to £ T. 1,600,000, an amount which, it may be hoped, will be exceeded.

Further information in regard to the actual recent customs' receipts is in course of preparation.

The estimate under "Tobacco" is now made on the basis of the receipts of the year 1877-78, which amounted to £ T. 855,296, of which £ T. 110,540 was from the provinces now detached from the Empire. My first estimate, which was less than three-fourths of the official estimate, presumed the continuance of a temporary surcharge which was intended to be applied, and has been partially applied, to the withdrawal of the paper-money.

The estimate for "Salt" it has been thought better to take as an amount lower than that at which I placed it, and not to take into account the improvement anticipated by the Administration from increased production.

The "Telegraph" estimate has also been reduced to an amount the realization of which may be considered as well assured.

On the other hand, the estimate has been raised under the following heads:—

	£ T.
Sheep tax	400,000
Crown lands	85,000
Forests	40,000
Mines	115,000
Total	640,000

As regards the sheep tax the increase appears justified by information received as to the collections in the current year from some of the most important provinces.

The increase under "Crown Lands" is mainly nominal, consisting of a transfer from the head of "Miscellaneous Receipts," as already mentioned.

The increase under "Forests" may be expected from the measures in progress under the superintendence of the present Director of Mines and Forests, who is taking measures for the better collection of forest dues from forests now yielding revenue, and for bringing a very large area, which is stated at 2,000,000 hectares of additional forest, under more or less of surveillance.

This branch of revenue has been greatly neglected of late years, and the yield to the Treasury very inadequate.

In respect of "Mines," I followed, in the first instance, the estimate made in the Ministry of Finance, which appears to have been made on insufficient data. The present estimate is justified by the receipts of past years, and by information received as to concessions and arrangements now in force.

Owing to uncertainty in the accounts placed before the Commission, it has not as yet been possible to estimate the revenue from duties on spirits. The amount I have placed provisionally against this head appears to be that indicated by the statements of recent collections.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

ESTIMATE of Revenue for 1295 (1879-80.)

Heads of Revenue.	£ T.		Heads of Revenue.	£ T.
Verghi	2,100,000		Forests	80,000
Military exemption	340,000		Mines	180,000
Tithes	4,500,000		Marine	95,000
Sheep tax	1,400,000		Ministry of Commerce	2,000
Swine tax	7,000		Telegraph	155,000
Customs	1,600,000		Post	63,000
Tobacco	720,000		Police	1,250
Silk	65,000		Miscellaneous receipts	160,000
Tapou (duty on successions to real property, sales of land, and assurance of titles)	200,000		Add, for the heads of Revenue as to which the Commission has not as yet agreed on an estimate—	
Stamps	140,000		Spirits	100,000
Contracts	2,500		Sanitary administration	50,000
Judicial receipts	88,000		Egypt	765,000
Miscellaneous taxes	310,000		Samos	4,000
Salt	700,000		Mount Athos	720
Crown lands—	£ T.		Cyprus	116,000
Sales	10,000	85,000	Total	13,099,470
Rents, &c.	75,000			

Or, £ sterling, at 18*s.*, equal to 12,599,623*l.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Estimate of Indirect Revenue for 1295 (1879-80.)

	Divers.	Salines.	Soies.	Papier Timbré.	Spiritueux.		Tabacs.			Douanes.	Total.
					Droits de Permis.	Droits Dits.	Droits de Consommation.	Droits de Permis.	Droits Dits.		
	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.	£ T.
Beyrout	..	24,222	..	4,501	336	4,079	9,471	1,206	6,206	77,449	127,472
Alep	113	11,510	..	3,870	293	726	7,925	1,434	1,825	43,754	70,942
Trébizonde	10,958	58,186	1,964	5,676	185	2,825	64,450	275	34,032	42,760	221,311
Bagdad	..	1,905	..	2,405	39	527	..	496	7,416	63,851	76,503
Crète	..	1,564	..	643	239	..	..	335	4	13,350	16,137
Smyrne	..	70,512	..	6,187	3,096	6,650	30,762	1,384	13,233	132,133	283,972
Dardanelles	..	7,705	..	1,852	..	408	3,159	332	836	..	14,292
Prevesa	256	13,628	..	1,770	1,151	2,983	2,087	142	1,353	11,417	35,392
Varna	..	37,012	..	2,405	34	190	16,365	336	2,163	..	59,706
Tripoli	..	61,764	..	460	..	90	1,200	1	1	20,048	83,564
Djeddah	..	3	..	386	..	..	437	76	..	24,195	25,098
Kunieh	..	57,282	93	2,864	56	126	13,247	612	1,206	7,826	83,250
Scutari d'Albanie	..	6,466	..	860	229	953	818	60	265	11,869	21,560
Enéreman	525	21,282	..	1,650	96	283	10,892	261	2,083	8,702	45,783
Constantinople. (Droits) ..	..	3,901	34,022	4,397	957	3,820	65,560	564	48,185	17,680	179,086
Salonique	2,721	37,749	394	9,271	2,467	17,401	44,242	409	36,385	60,957	212,496
1er semestre sur avis Télégraphique	14,643	415,351	36,473	49,137	9,180	41,072	291,815	7,915	155,154	535,781	1,556,524
2e semestre prévision	14,644	415,350	36,473	49,138	9,180	41,073	291,815	7,916	155,154	535,781	1,556,525
	29,287	830,701	72,947	98,271	18,360	82,145	583,630	15,831	310,308	1,071,562	5,113,049
Yemen (8 mois)	..	2,601	..	263	..	..	14	69	..	26,168	29,106
(9 mois prévision) ..	..	7,802	..	789	..	..	43	207	..	78,475	87,316
Yeni-Bazar (1 an)	..	..	..	541	141	30	2,226	97	35	136	3,205
Andrinople (1 an)	..	10,200	395	1,757	1,123	2,700	..	389	9,822	19,331	45,774
		851,310	73,342	101,625	19,624	84,875	585,913	16,593	320,165	1,195,712	3,278,450
Douanes de Constantinople (8 mois	..	1,971	..	20,908	8,543	10,175	115,620	1,407	..	541,990	701,623
Id. (prévision 4 mois)	..	986	..	10,954	4,271	5,088	57,810	704	..	270,999	350,771
Total	29,287	854,267	73,342	134,487	32,438	100,138	709,343	18,704	320,165	2,008,709	4,330,844

No. 39.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 3.*)

(No. 29. Political.) *Scutari, February 8, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday the Montenegrins were put in quiet possession of Jabiak, and that the Turks, in their turn, occupied San Giorgio and San Nicolo on the right bank of the River of Boyana.

The evacuation of Podgoritza and Spuz has been commenced to-day, and all is going on quietly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 40.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 3.*)

(No. 30. Political.) *Scutari, February 8, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turks were put in possession of Dulcigno this afternoon at two o'clock, but no official account of the entry of the Montenegrins into Spuz and Podgoritza can be received here until a late hour in the night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 41.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 3.*)

(No. 31. Political.) *Scutari, February 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that Spuz and Podgoritza were quietly surrendered yesterday to the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 3.*)

(No. 32. Political.) *Scutari, February 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Hadji Osman Pasha, who commands the Turkish troops which have retired from Podgoritza, announces that the Montenegrins, contrary to the terms of the Vir-Bazar Protocol, decline to give up Dinoshi.

I believe that the Montenegrin officer at that place must have misunderstood his orders, but, if it is not so, as I am going to-morrow to Cettinjé to present my letter of credence to Prince Nicholas, I will endeavour to induce his Highness to settle the matter satisfactorily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 43.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 34. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettinje, February 13, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that before leaving Scutari I was petitioned by the Mohammedan refugees from Antivari and the western shores of Lake Scutari to obtain permission for them from Prince Nicholas to return to their homes, and Kiamil Pasha also begged me to use my good offices to the same end.

On the first opportunity afforded me I mentioned the subject to the Prince, and I was astonished to find that His Highness was under the impression that he had become, by the right of conquest, the sole owner of the whole of the private property which he had acquired by force of arms, and which had not been voluntarily surrendered to him by the Turkish Government.

His Highness said he had already distributed most of the lands in these districts as rewards to his soldiers, and that, in fact, he could not now recede from the position he had taken up in the matter.

I expressed the greatest regret that he should have taken so hasty a resolution, especially as I was convinced he would have to reconsider it. I said I was sure the Treaty of Berlin was the only title of His Highness to the possession of the whole of the new territory which would be acknowledged, and that the sole result of the present attempt to confiscate the property of private individuals would be to forfeit for His Highness the good name he had secured in civilized Europe.

I found that M. Speyer, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in the absence of M. Yonine, the Minister Resident, held the same views as the Prince. I urged him also in the strongest manner to examine the question thoroughly, and, if necessary, to obtain instructions on the subject.

On several other occasions I ventured to revert to the rights of the inhabitants of Antivari, Nichsich, and other conquered districts, but I feared I had met with little success until this evening, when, after dinner at the Palace, where I had been invited, Prince Nicholas informed me that he did not wish me to return to Albania empty-handed, and he had therefore determined to forego what he considered his rights, and he authorized me to tell Kiamil Pasha and the Mohammedan refugees that a warm welcome awaited all who desired to return to their homes.

I earnestly thanked His Highness for the grateful task he had charged me with, and I congratulated him upon once more having adopted a course which will strengthen the reputation for nobleness and generosity which he has gained for his country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 44.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to state with reference to your Lordship's instructions of the 24th ultimo that, notwithstanding my support at Cettinjé of Kiamil Pasha's request that a Turkish Agent should be permitted to reside at Podgoritza to reassure the Mahommedans of the place, Prince Nicholas has maintained that the person named by the Turks being the late Military and Civil Governor of Spuz and Podgoritza, his continued residence in the latter town, without any formal recognition of his position by Montenegro, has created the impression that the surrender of the district is incomplete.

I obtained a promise from the Prince not to expel the agent before Sunday evening, and Kiamil Pasha has now consented to have him recalled.

I suggest that the Porte should direct Aali Bey, or some equally capable functionary, to go without delay to Cettinjé, as I am sure all matters occurring through the present state of change could be there at once satisfactorily arranged.

I have persuaded Prince Nicholas to withdraw his opposition to the return to their homes of the Mahommedan refugees from the annexed districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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o. 45.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 11. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging, with thanks, the receipt of the copy of despatch No. 197 from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, together with the Report of Stephen Thomaides on his second arrest and journey to Sophia, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 18, Confidential, of the 23rd January last.

With regard to the Report in question, I beg respectfully to observe, that while it does in fact recapitulate some of the statements made in my presence by its author, it omits several others of at least equal importance, made on the same occasion, as related in my despatch No. 26 of the 23rd December last.

Also, that it contains two inaccuracies: the one, in the affirmation put into the mouth of a Turkish officer taken prisoner at Krema, "that the leader of the insurgents who captured him was a Russian, as he spoke neither Turkish nor Bulgarian."

Now of this, correct or otherwise, the author of the Report made no mention before me; and its insertion is consequently inexact.

Secondly, in the statement that Prince Dondoukoff told him, on his return after the interview with me, "that he had no further need of him, the Consul-General having obtained sufficient information from him."

This also is inexact; Prince Dondoukoff when dismissing S. Thomaides having made, as he assures me, no such reference to any information given me by the person in question, but merely to information given to himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 46.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I start to-morrow for Tirnova, where, allowing for the bad condition of the roads at this time of year, I expect to arrive on the 17th or 18th. The Assembly opens on the 22nd instant.

The Ottoman Commissary has already started, and the Austrian, French, Italian, and German Delegates set out the day after to-morrow. The Russian Commissary, who has special means for travelling at disposal, will not set out till next week.

I have the honour of communicating the substance of the above to your Lordship by telegram this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 47.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 13. Political.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day received from the Provisional Government of the province two documents just published, one of them being the List of Notables summoned to meet on the 22nd instant at Tirnova, the other the Programme of Organic Law approved at St. Petersburgh and intended for the consideration of the Assembly.

On the eve of my departure for Tirnova, want of time prevents my supplying your Lordship at present with translations of these documents, but I trust to be able to prepare such while on the road, and to forward them to your Lordship immediately on my arrival at Tirnova.

In the meantime I note the following points :—
The Assembly of Notables contains 231 Members, thus arranged :—
Eight Bulgarian Bishops, amongst whom the Exarch.
One Greek Bishop.
Two high ecclesiastical dignitaries, both Bulgarian.
The Mufti of Widdin.
The Rabbi of Sophia.
One hundred and five *ex officio* Members, the Presidents of various Tribunals.
Ninety-two elected Members.
Twenty-one nominated by the Imperial Russian Commissioner ; amongst whom eleven Mahommedans.

The Tribunals are those mentioned in my previous despatches on this subject, and the elected Members have been returned on the basis designated in the same.

Regarding the Project of Organic Law, a first glance shows it to have been drawn up much on the Servian model.

The Princely Dignity is hereditary ; the Ministers absolutely responsible to the National Assembly. This last consists of *ex officio* Members and elected ones in nearly equal proportions, with direct nominees to half the amount of the latter. The Council of State is designated half by the Prince, half by the Assembly. Yearly Sessions are obligatory. The *ex officio* Members hold their seats for two years, the others for four. All legislative, financial, and administrative control is vested in the Assembly.

The Prince's Civil List is of 1,000,000 fr. yearly. He is to be—the first nominee, if necessary, excepted—of the Orthodox Church.

Such are the leading features of the programme, so far as I have yet been able to take cognizance of them. In the expectation of being soon able to furnish your Lordship with completer information, I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 48.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Tirnova, February 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 20 of the 30th ultimo, mentioning a Decree said to have been issued by Prince Dondoukoff for reorganizing into one group the Tribunals of Bulgaria and East Roumelia, and at the same time ignoring the title of the latter province.

In explanation, I have now the honour to furnish your Lordship with an official copy of the Decree in question, as published in Russian, accompanied by a translation.

In this Decree your Lordship will not fail to observe that :—

Firstly, an absolute distinction is drawn between Bulgaria on the one hand and the districts of Slivno and Philippopolis on the other.

Secondly, the subject-matter of the Decree not being, so far as extra-Bulgarian territory was concerned, executive or administrative, but judicial, did not admit of provincial nomenclature, but simply required the enumeration of the several judicial circuits or districts in question.

For what regards the Decree taken as a whole, the provisional character, not only of the particular measure in question, but of the entire administration, is not merely noted but insisted on, as being only till the establishment of a permanent judicial system under a regular Administration, to be organized according to the terms of Treaty, and by which the provisional Russian organization will be of fact superseded.

Lastly, the measure itself, namely, the establishment of a Supreme Court of Appeal, seems a good one ; while the nature of such a Court would preclude the expediency, if not the possibility, of more than one within the radius specified.

Taking these things into consideration, I did not, at the time of the publication of the Decree, think it necessary to call your Lordship's special attention to it, more than to other acts of the provisional Government not injurious in themselves, nor, either in substance or in expression, derogating from the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin.

As to the title of "East Roumelia," I would respectfully remark that it is habitually used by the Prince Dondoukoff and by other Russian officials, both in documents and in conversation. Thus, for instance, in a Decree issued by the Prince above mentioned just

a month after that inclosed in this despatch, and regarding some modification of provincial taxation, it is expressly stated that the modification in question, made for Bulgaria, has no force in "East Roumelia," because under a different financial administration.

Respectfully trusting that the above explanation may be considered satisfactory in regard of my previous silence on this topic,

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 48.

A Decree of the Imperial Russian Commissioner for the Establishment of a Supreme Court of Justice in Sophia for the Districts of Philippopolis and Slivno, and for the Principality of Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

IN my Decree of the 20th September, present year, I directed the Government officers and persons concerned to put in force everywhere the Provisional Regulations for organizing the Department of Public Justice in Bulgaria, confirmed by myself on the 25th August, present year. In this view the formation of Courts of First and Second Instance might suffice to ensure for all, in the main, a just and impartial application of the law. However, as a further guarantee for the equity and legal uniformity of judicial proceedings, and referring in particular to Articles 324, 896, and 923 of the Provisional Regulations, I have thought it opportune and necessary to establish in Sophia a Supreme Court of Justice for receiving appeals in matters which have previously been brought before the Tribunals of First and Second Instance, and that the jurisdiction of the said Court may extend over the districts of Plovdio (Philippopolis) and Slivno, which are provisionally entrusted to my general direction and care.

In consequence I decree, that I confirm the Regulation for the formation of a Supreme Court of Justice, as presented to me by the Department charged with the same ; and the said Regulation shall provisionally have force in the Plovdio and Slivno districts, as well as in the Principality of Bulgaria.

The execution of this Decree is committed to the Government offices and persons concerned.

Sophia, November 25, 1878.

Imperial Russian Commissary, Adjutant-General,
(Signed) Prince DONDOUKOFF-KORSAKOFF.

No. 49.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Tirnova, February 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, yesterday, of your Lordship's despatch No. 21 of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gould on the subject of the relations existing between Bulgaria and Servia.

The presence in this place of almost all the notables of Bulgaria, and particularly of those from the sub-provinces of Widdin and Sophia, both limitrophe of Servia, supplies me fortunately with unusually authentic means of informing your Lordship as to the Bulgarian view of the matter.

The transfer of Prince Milan's residence to Nisch has assuredly created much agitation among the Bulgarians, but in a sense precisely opposite to that represented at Belgrade. It is true that the Bulgarians themselves look forward desiringly, many of them eagerly, to the time when they will be relieved from Russian occupation ; but however onerous Russian patronage and rule they would gladly consent to its prolongation, even permanence, if its alternative were Servian. What they desire is, avowedly and sincerely, Bulgarian autonomy and Bulgarian government.

Whether or not the Servians are correct in their estimate of Bulgarian vitality, enterprise, and activity as superior to their own, I cannot say. But I do not find an equally high opinion of the Servians prevalent among the Bulgarians. Nor does there, at least now, exist any Pan-Slavistic tendency, or even sympathy, among the Bulgarians, whether leaders or mass. Their tendencies are remarkably, I might almost say unanimously,

exclusive, and may be not incorrectly defined as Pan-Bulgarian, nothing more. As to their Servian and Russian cousins, they make no secret of their hearty dislike for the former, and of their wish, gratitude apart, to be well rid of the latter.

None of the Bulgarian representative men here known or present have, for the last seven months at least, held any intimate or even friendly intercourse with those of Servia. Nor, by their statement, are there any Bulgarians of note or influence resident at Belgrade or Nisch. Hence the reported large attendance of influential Bulgarians at a requiem held at the latter place is here considered apocryphal.

Having been myself at Sophia, and constantly informed of all arrivals there or departures thence during the Christmas holidays, I can positively affirm that not a single member of the Servian Skuptschina arrived there, either at that time or any other of my residence, and that in consequence none were hospitably entertained.

As to the petitions demanding annexation to Servia, to which may be added one sent to St. Petersburgh, as I am told, to the same effect, they are stated to have been made by the inhabitants of the villages on Bulgarian territory forcibly occupied by the Servians of late, and to have been drawn up under absolute compulsion.

With the present Exarch of Bulgaria actually resident at Philippopolis I am well acquainted, and can unhesitatingly declare that the Prelate in question, though by no means a servile dependent of the Russian Administration, whose expressed wishes he has recently declined to comply with on a not unimportant occasion, has not only never agitated, either singly or at the head of others, in favour of a closer union with Servia, but would, did such an agitation exist, be the foremost to oppose it. He is, on the contrary, a Pan-Bulgarian of the most marked type.

Thus much for the tendencies and facts as seen from the Servian point of view. From the Bulgarian they are stated briefly as follows:—

The violent expulsion of the Bulgarian Bishop of Sharkoi, or Pirot, in April; the Servian encroachments on the Bulgarian territory, and more particularly in the districts of Koula and Belgradjik, the former limitrophe of Widdin, the latter of Sophia; the occupation by armed Servians of the lands, and in some instances of the houses, of twenty villages within the above districts; the refusal of the Servians to pay attention to the remonstrances either of the Russian Commissioner sent about seven weeks ago from Sophia to examine into these doings, or of the Russian Consul-General at Belgrade, protesting by the order of his Government against the same. Such, say the Bulgarians, are the immediate grounds of their actual and patent animosity against Servia. Without venturing to guarantee the accuracy of the facts as they state them, I can unhesitatingly affirm that the animosity exists on the Bulgarian side in full force.

That, however, some efforts are being made on the Servian side to mix in Bulgarian affairs, especially at the present moment, I much believe. General Tchernaieff's abortive mission to Sophia, nine days' since, is a proof, and Ljubobratish has been announced, but has not yet arrived. These efforts have, thus far, met with no seconding on this side the frontier from either Bulgarians or Russians, nor do I think them likely to meet with any at the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 50.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 114. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1879.

CHAKIR PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, has privately communicated to me a telegram from his Government (of which I have the honour to annex a copy), containing the substance of a note addressed by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, on the signature of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, stating that the order to evacuate those portions of the Ottoman territory situated outside of Bulgaria and Roumelia would be given to the Russian troops immediately after the exchange of the ratifications.

This evacuation was to be terminated within thirty-five days.

But in delivering this note, Prince Labanoff stated that His Majesty the Emperor, without awaiting the exchange of the ratifications, had authorized him to communicate to General Todleben the order to begin immediately the evacuation.

This decision of the Emperor had been received with great satisfaction by His

Majesty the Sultan and His Government, and Chakir Pasha was instructed to convey to Prince Gortchacow their best and sincere thanks.

Chakir Pasha informs me that in reply to this complimentary message Prince Gortchacow expressed his satisfaction that the friendly sentiments of His Imperial Majesty were duly appreciated at Constantinople.

In conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, I have abstained from making to Prince Gortchacow the communication conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the previous day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Caratheodory Pasha to Chakir Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 12 Février*, 1879.

SIMULTANÉMENT avec la signature du Traité, l'Ambassadeur de Russie a remis à la Sublime Porte une note pour déclarer que l'ordre d'évacuer les parties de l'Empire Ottoman, situées en dehors de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, sera donné aux troupes Russes immédiatement après l'échange des Ratifications de ce Traité. Cette évacuation devait être terminée dans l'espace de trente-cinq jours. Mais en remettant cette note, le Prince Labanoff nous a déclaré que Sa Majesté l'Empereur, sans attendre la ratification, a bien voulu l'autoriser à communiquer au Général Todleben l'ordre de commencer immédiatement l'évacuation. Le Général Todleben a même déjà publié un ordre du jour dans ce sens. Cette décision de l'Empereur a été accueillie avec la plus grande satisfaction par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et son Gouvernement, et je vous prie d'être auprès du Prince Gortchacow l'interprète de nos plus vifs et sincères remercîments.

No. 51.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the ratifications of the Definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey were exchanged here yesterday at the Imperial Foreign Office.

(Very Confidential.)

I am informed that on this occasion Prince Gortchacow addressed a speech to the Turkish Ambassador, in which he laid stress on the value to Turkey of the friendship of Russia, contrasting it with the inconsistency of the English.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 52.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith, in translation by Mr. Michell, two remarkable articles from the "Russki-Mir," for which that newspaper has received a third warning and been suppressed for four months.

The first article contains a condemnation of the Russian policy hitherto pursued, and attributes the hostility now shown by Europe against Russia to the shortcomings of the Russian people.

The second article expresses its dissatisfaction with the present system of Government in still stronger terms, and openly calls for a Constitutional form of Government, without which it considers all national progress to be impossible.

The suppression of this newspaper, of which General Tchernaieff was formerly proprietor, has caused much sensation here.

I likewise inclose an article in translation from the "Exchange Gazette," the commercial organ, condemning the policy pursued by Russia in the Balkan Peninsula and Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Extract from the "Exchange Gazette" of February 1/13, 1879.

(Translation from the Russian.)

The "Exchange Gazette" (which has now assumed the new name of the "Molva") of the 1/13 February, 1879, makes, in its controversy with a contemporary, the following recapitulation of the political views it has always held regarding the policy pursued by Russia in the Balkan Peninsula and Black Sea:—

"The 'Russkaia Pravda,' a newspaper which, we venture to think, is well disposed towards us, and with which we have much in common, has made an extract from one of our leading articles on the intelligence received of the conclusion of a final peace with Turkey, and in which article, among other things, we stated that the Eastern question and the idea of the unification of the Slavs have no real basis, and that they were founded on problematical illusions. The extracts made by the 'Russkaia Pravda' is accompanied by the following remarks:—

"'This, of course, is rather exaggerated. The "Exchange Gazette," to make a comparison with Malthus, wishing to straighten the bow, has bent it too much in the opposite direction. It is difficult to assume that the idea of the unification of the Slavs has no firmer basis than problematical illusions. Whether this idea in itself is reasonable or not is another question; but that it exists in the minds of many Russian people, and that it has, to a certain extent, historical justifications, does not likewise admit of any doubt.'

"We perfectly agree that the idea of the unification of the Slavs, and the Eastern question generally, exists in the minds of many Russian people, but we contend that this idea exists without being clearly comprehended; and it is in consequence of this we maintain that these ideas involve us periodically in political collisions for which we have always to pay dearly, without benefiting ourselves in any way.

"This question, undoubtedly, is very important, and we would very much wish to clear up the misunderstanding which exists in this matter between ourselves and the 'Russkaia Pravda.' Our respected contemporary complains that in straightening the bow we bend it in an opposite direction. It would apparently wish to leave the bow in a medium position. We, on our side, consider this position to be the root of all the evil, and contend that in the present instance it is not sufficient simply to straighten the bow, but that it should decidedly be bent over in the opposite direction.

"The Eastern question is composed of two elements, domination of the Straits and unification of the Slavs, and it seems to us it is absolutely necessary that we should make clear to ourselves whether we ought to strive for the attainment of these objects, or whether it would be more beneficial for us to renounce them. There can be no *pro* and *con* here; it is necessary to choose one of the two; otherwise we must continue to sit between two stools, and risk at any time falling through without occupying either.

"Europe makes the occupation of the Straits a question of general European policy, and, in our opinion, is perfectly justified in so doing. The occupation of the Straits by Russia must call forth an augmentation of naval fleets and means of naval defence of those States whose territory is conterminous with the Mediterranean, or who possess naval stations in that sea. This is opposed to general European interests, and consequently united Europe does not wish to give up the Straits to Russia without a fierce contest. On the other hand, Europe has no possibility of closing these Straits against Russia, whose armies can always, in an extreme case, open a passage to the Straits from the Asiatic as well as from the European shore of the Black Sea. We therefore ask: is it profitable or even reasonable for Russia to immoderately strain her military strength, and to hold herself in perpetual readiness for a struggle against the whole of Europe, for the sake of the sentimental idea of the occupation of the Straits—the realization of which she has no chance of effecting?

"Is it likewise profitable and reasonable for Russia to keep continually agitating the question of the unification of the Slavs, which is again inconsistent with general

European interests, and to exhaust herself in ceaseless and fruitless attempts to attain this object, when there is nothing yet prepared for the solution of this question in a favourable sense? Is it possible and can it in reality be seriously entertained that these small Slav nationalities, who have nearly all out-distanced us in culture and in economic respects, desire and strive for political solidarity with us?

"Up to the present time, at least, we have always seen that the nationalities of the Balkan Peninsula liberated by us have never missed an opportunity for utilizing us for their own benefit, and have never shown in any way their readiness to unite themselves with us. We liberated Greece, Roumania, Servia, we made enormous sacrifices for this purpose, yet we have never been able to derive from this any advantage for ourselves.

"The political structure of these small States is yet far from being complete. Liberated from the Turks, they are certain to become involved in internal dissensions; they will remodel themselves many times, unite and disunite, and is it possible that Russia must each time participate in these strifes and dissensions, and settle them at her own cost? And in this question, as in the foregoing, one of two alternatives must be chosen, which will certainly admit of no middle course or conditional replies.

"Such is our view of the matter. The 'Russkaia Pravda' may or may not agree with this view, but it must not accuse us of giving expression to lightly considered opinions. In so important a question we have no desire to place ourselves between two stools."

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Extract from the "Russki-Mir."

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE PROXIMATE QUESTION.—We find ourselves obliged to begin with the consideration of the most threadbare and universally known truths, but which, for some reason or other, are either evaded or totally suppressed, or else treated in a roundabout way, hinted at indirectly and never openly stated, but which, nevertheless, are concealed only as the ostrich which hides its head in the sand in order to avoid discovery.

We allude to the plain truth that the vital interests of the State cannot be dealt with without the live participation of society and the people; if their guidance be not vivified by the national will, and if they be dominated over by a bureaucracy, then the whole life of the State assumes the form of a spiritless formula of bureaucratic scribes; it is exposed to every kind of chance; in regard to foreign relations, it exhibits instability, and, in respect to internal concerns, represents in full force the process of assiduously treading one spot of ground without making any advance. All these are such generally-known formulæ that they are hardly worth referring to, were it not necessary, in view of the unsuccessful past and the far from brilliant future, to begin such rudimentary truths and to refresh our memories with that which have long been truisms for the whole of Europe.

Putting aside the question as to the form in which a nation should take part in the affairs of the State, a subject on which we may dilate on a future occasion, we shall first of all observe that according to the proverb "turn nature out of the door she is sure to jump in through the window," the public activity of the nation has, *de facto*, more than once exhibited itself in the history of our existence as a State. The exhibition of such activity manifested itself either in the shape of a general protest or in the form of palace revolutions, or else in that of a general enthusiasm similar to that which sprang forth before the Servian war.

Why should we recall the distant past? It must be fresh in the memory of us all. Now in answer to the national enthusiasm an endless correspondence ensued, in which our diplomatists were pinned to the wall; how subsequently vacillations were exhibited in the field and unpardonable cowardice in our diplomatic sphere, and how at last everything terminated in complete disenchantment and a firm consciousness of our own impotence, and the multiplicity of our State ailments. All this we have felt and lived through, and who is not now convinced that the cause of all this arises from the circumstance that we do not possess any legal form for the expression of the wishes and thoughts of the nation?

We are on the threshold of ameliorations. Commissions and Committees will soon commence their activity. The examination of rubbish of every description

accumulated in our Chanceries is soon to begin. A special High Commission for the diminution of the expenses of the State has been formed. Will, however, all these labours be animated by any fresh thoughts, or by a recognition of the vital requirements of the people, or will they only give origin to sickly fruit, the products of a stifling bureaucratic atmosphere?

We are of the latter opinion. We have already informed our readers that the Budget of the Ministries will not be subjected to the examination of the High Commission. Simultaneously with the solicitude displayed for a curtailment of the expenditure of the State, it would appear that millions are distributed out of the State domains in the shape of annuities, as, for instance, out of the unalienable forests of the Kingdom of Poland,* and, moreover, the inquiry into the system of Government contracts and purveyances will hardly result in the closing of the back-doors leading to the Ministries, and the discontinuance of the activity of individuals expert in "arranging" affairs by secret negotiation. Is it possible in a word for a bureaucracy to curtail an expenditure which it lavishes on itself? It is clear that we shall continue in the same path of serious error which we pursued during the course of the last twenty years of peace. It is equally clear that we are only beating round and about the bush, adopting half measures, and do not wish to meet the necessities of the country face to face.

The peasantry are poverty-stricken; agriculture is unable to bear local and State burthens; commerce is languishing under the continuous fall of the rate of exchange; there is a general enhancement of prices; then there is the plague, and the new socialistic movement rises like a dark spectre, threatening the future, and at such a time as this the Government will not hear the voice of the people—the voice of God.

We do not believe that this disinclination proceeds from the supreme head of the Administration. The process of reconstruction of the State has been too marked to allow of any halt half way. All classes have been levelled, and they have been entrusted with the management of their own concerns, subject to the allotment to the State of half the imposts raised; a general class tax is contemplated. But it may be asked, can the power of controlling the expenditure of the State income be withheld from the people in view of the rights already granted? Universal military service has been introduced; the young men of Russia are bound to lay down their lives in defence of the interests and honour of the Empire. Can foreign relations be felt independent of national control, especially at a time of impending war? We have courts which mete out justice equally to all; if such be the case the law must be an expression of the national consciousness. Lastly, we have a free press; then let the free and honest voice of the people find loud expression instead of its being, as at present, obliged to have recourse to empty verbiage.

We shall finish with what we commenced. All this is known to every honest patriotic Russian. It is to be hoped and wished that this idea, under the present gloomy state of our country, may soon find expression and then enter into the region of action.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Extract from the "Russki Mir" of February $\frac{4}{16}$, 1879.

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE "Russki Mir" of the $\frac{4}{16}$th February, 1879, No. 32, has received a third warning, and been suppressed for four months, for the publication of the two following articles; in the first of which it attributes the hostility displayed towards Russia by Europe, and the failure of Russian policy in the East, to the shortcomings of the Russian people, and for openly demanding, in the second, a constitutional form of Government for the country, without which it considers all national progress to be impossible:—

"Why deceive ourselves? Our political position, both internal and foreign, is not

* This is in allusion to the recent grant of forests in Poland to the present Minister of Finance and to the Adjoint of the previous Minister. The former was to have received a tract of forest which should have ensured him an annuity of 6,000 roubles, and the latter forest land equivalent to a yearly pension of 3,000 roubles. In reality, however, it is said that the Minister of Finance received an allotment of forest which is valued at 1,500,000 roubles, and the ex-Adjoint is reported to have already netted the sum of 350,000 roubles by the sale of his grant.—TRANSLATOR.

at all benefited by the signature of the final Treaty of Peace with Turkey, nor by the new European quarantine system, which formally relegates us to the circle of Asiatic States. We will not deceive ourselves. The civilized nations have excluded us from their midst, and taken advantage of every opportunity to show as clearly as possible their complete moral disregard of Russia and everything Russian. Our customary complaints against the hatred which Europe entertains against us are only sorry and empty words, so long as they do not carry with them the consciousness of the real causes of this hatred—causes which are deep-rooted and just, and bound up with our musty political reputation, with all our former misdeeds and ailments, with our long-existing diseases, now foreign to all Europe, and with their present serious manifestations—now anxiously awaiting an issue.

"Why should we deceive ourselves? The root of the antipathy with which Europe surrounds us is contained in the peculiarity of our own internal condition. Our foreign war has not only failed to lead us into a wide field of just political existence, but has immersed us still deeper into the bog, the splashes from which having reached our Western neighbours have called forth such contemptuous feelings and relations in regard to ourselves. We have nothing to blame Europe for. We need only soberly and conscientiously glance around us, comprehend our isolated position among the European nations, weigh well the causes of our misfortunes, the dissatisfaction and disillusions arising from the progress of our internal affairs—as compared with the healthy advance of popular existence of other nations, and the result received will be a firm and clear understanding of those phenomena in regard to which we are accustomed to complain faint-heartedly against the hostility displayed towards us by Europe.

"Apparently, we were bitterly mistaken when we perceived in the Slav movement and the self-sacrificing devotion of our volunteers the symptoms of a national awakening and a serious change for the better. This movement, in which the 'Russki Mir' played such an active and energetic part, proved simply a passing flash of national feeling which burst forth for a moment through the thick scale of our State organism, and then retired into the depths of unhealthy universal apathy. For us personally, this pitiable ending of a struggle which promised so much in the commencement has been a severe disenchantment.

"It now remains for us to sit calmly in our native bog until such time as the sun, the wind, or chance will bring us better times."

No. 53.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting article from the "Golos" on the routes of communication in the Caucasus, considered from a strategical point of view.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Extract from the "Golos" of February $\frac{11}{23}$, 1879.

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{10\text{th}}{22\text{nd}}$ February, 1879, contains the following article on the routes of communication in the Caucasus as considered from a strategical point of view:—

"We have already indicated the conditions of the land and sea-coast line of defences of our basis in Asia Minor in the event of a new war with Turkey, should the latter be supported or directed by England. It is necessary, likewise, to examine the conditions in which the basis is placed in regard to its communication with the Provinces of European Russia, which constitute the most important factor of our power as a State.

"In this respect the present condition of the lines of communication possess many imperfections.

"The Trans-Caucasus is connected with Northern Caucasia by only two routes capable of serving as lines of operation, the Georgian military road and the post roads along the Caucasian sea-coast. Neither of these routes possesses the conditions of permanent communication. The Georgian military road during snow-drifts and avalanches, and the post road from Petrofsk to Baku during parts of the winter and summer, are nearly impassable. During four months, which partially coincide with the most tempestuous period in the Caspian and Black Seas, the Trans-Caucasus becomes entirely isolated from the northern parts of the Caucasian Lieutenancy.

"The whole of the eastern and greater part of the Caucasus, which is closely dependent in economic respects on the Volga system, becomes almost similarly isolated.

"During the long time that elapses before the solid freezing of the Volga, this part of the Caucasus has only one route of communication by way of a desolate post road from Astrakan to Kizljar.

"As the provisioning of the Russian army in the Caucasus is effected for the greater part by supplies from the Volga, and as it is only along the coast of the Caspian Sea from Petrofsk to Baku that a railroad communication can be quickly established, it is of the greatest importance in strategical interests that the question of constructing a railroad from Tsaritsin to Mozdok or Stavropol, and from Mozdok to Petrofsk, with an extension of the line to Baku, should be quickly solved. Such a direction of the railway routes into the eastern part of the Caucasian Lieutenancy, while connecting it by a straight route with European Russia, strengthens, so to say, the connection of the Trans-Caucasus with Northern Caucasia, avoiding the principal range of the Caucasian mountains.

"In view of the importance of the routes from European Russia to the Trans-Caucasus, it is impossible to disregard the fact that the road already existing from Rostoff to Vladikofkas, extending at no great distance from the Azof and Black Seas, and protected solely by the fortress of Kertch, terminates at a point in the Caucasian mountains from which an extension of the line would require in comparison far more expense and time than would be needed for constructing the greater portion of the Caspian sea-coast line. This route possesses an equal importance for Central Asia, and for Russia's relations with Persia."

No. 54.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 136.)
St. Petersburgh, February 26, 1879.

My Lord,

HIS Majesty the Emperor has addressed a letter to the Holy Synod of the Empire to express his gratitude for the services rendered during the late war with Turkey by every member of the Orthodox Russian Church.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the translation of His Majesty's letter published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of February $\frac{14}{26}$, 1879.

St. Pétersbourg, le 13 *Février*, 1879.

Rescrit de Sa Majesté l'Empereur au Saint-Synode.

LA guerre que nous avons entreprise contre la Turquie pour la défense de nos coreligionnaires a été signalée de la part du clergé Russe Orthodoxe par des preuves nombreuses du vif intérêt qu'il prenait à cette grande mission, s'inspirant de l'exemple traditionnel des serviteurs de l'Eglise Russe.

Dès le début des hostilités, le Saint-Synode, concentrant son attention sur le sort des militaires blessés et malades, a fait appel aux institutions et aux personnes placées sous ses ordres, pour subvenir par des offrandes aux besoins sanitaires de notre vaillante

armée et a donné par là l'exemple de cette œuvre patriotique. Les Chefs de Diocèse, mus par les mêmes sentiments Chrétiens, ont concouru avec le plus grand zèle à la réalisation des nobles projets du Synode. Des monastères Orthodoxes sont partis des centaines de religieux et de religieuses, qui se sont vaillamment conduits en se consacrant au service des militaires blessés et malades, dont un grand nombre ont trouvé asile et secours dans des ambulances organisées par les communautés religieuses.

Animé d'un amour tout aussi ardent pour la patrie, tout le clergé Orthodoxe s'est montré digne de sa haute mission. Dans toute l'immense étendue de l'Empire, les prêtres des paroisses ont travaillé avec un zèle infatigable, à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur des temples, pour le succès de cette grande œuvre, en faisant comprendre à leurs ouailles la signification de la sainte lutte que nous avions entreprise au nom de la charité et de la vérité, en soutenant et en fortifiant l'esprit des populations, en présence des charges inévitables de la guerre, en faisant appel à la bienfaisance publique et en donnant eux-mêmes le premier exemple. Aussi le peuple Russe Orthodoxe, héritant des vertus de ses pères et habitué de tout temps à écouter la parole des pasteurs de l'Eglise et à marcher sur leurs traces, a-t-il été unanime dans l'esprit de sacrifice pour la foi, le Trône, et la patrie, et a-t-il manifesté ce sentiment par d'abondantes offrandes en faveur de l'armée et par des traits de courage et de constance—qui ont étonné le monde—de ceux de ses fils que le sort avait désignés pour prendre place dans les rangs des combattants pour la foi et pour la délivrance des peuples qui lui sont fidèles. Sur les champs de bataille le clergé a pris part aux brillants exploits de notre armée victorieuse; les aumôniers de l'armée, aux côtés de leurs ouailles, ont accompli des actes de haute valeur et de sacrifice; ils ont vaillamment rempli leurs devoirs de pasteurs au milieu des dangers des batailles, en administrant les consolations de la religion à ceux qui sont tombés pour la foi et pour la patrie, et en soutenant et en animant les guerriers par leur parole et par leur exemple.

Voulant honorer par un témoignage de ma reconnaissance Impériale ces actes du clergé Russe Orthodoxe, qui ont contribué pendant la dernière guerre à l'avantage, à l'honneur, et à la gloire de notre chère patrie, je considère comme un juste devoir d'exprimer au Saint-Synode ma sincère gratitude, ainsi qu'aux Archevêques, aux Archiprêtres, aux Supérieurs et Abbesses des Monastères et à tout le clergé Russe Orthodoxe.

Puisse le Dieu de paix, qui nous a accordé la force et la vigueur nécessaires pour terminer avec succès la lutte, accorder à notre chère patrie le développement pacifique et les progrès dans l'esprit de la foi et de la piété qui de tout temps ont été prêchés et affermis par la Sainte Eglise Orthodoxe.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

St. Pétersbourg, le 4 *Février*, 1879.

No. 55.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 137.)
St. Petersburgh, February 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translations of articles in the "Russki Mir" and the "Golos," which are curious as showing the feelings with which the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace with Turkey has been received by the Russian public.

The hostility to Austria and also to Germany shown by the "Golos" is very remarkable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Newspaper Extracts.

LES RÉSULTATS DE LA SIGNATURE DE LA PAIX.—Il se produit dans la presse Russe, même chez les organes jusqu'ici les plus belliqueux, un apaisement opportun que nous croyons devoir signaler.

Ainsi, on lit dans le "Monde Russe:"—

"Ils ont le caractère bien sombre, ceux des publicistes qui semblent croire que la paix qui vient d'être signée avec la Turquie n'empêchera pas de futures complications. Certes, la situation en Orient comporte encore bien des améliorations; mais c'est désormais aux Chrétiens eux-mêmes à y pourvoir progressivement et sans secousse. Nous n'aurons plus à nous en mêler, au moins militairement. Notre campagne a eu cet avantage complet de dégager une question historique dont le développement ultérieur est l'œuvre du temps et des populations affranchies. Il nous suffira maintenant d'assurer par notre action diplomatique aux nouvelles Principautés Chrétiennes la sécurité indispensable à leur developpement politique. Aller au delà serait tout-à-fait inutile. Notre armée va donc rentrer dans ses foyers, non pas pour se préparer à de nouvelles expéditions, mais bien pour y jouir d'un repos mérité. Soyons donc heureux d'avoir la paix, qui nous permettra de réaliser à l'intérieur des transformations depuis longtemps attendues, et que tous nos efforts individuels se portent vers les travaux propres à donner à notre patrie la grandeur morale et la prospérité auxquelles elle aspire."

La Triple Alliance.—On lit dans le "Golos:"—

"La Triple Alliance a cessé d'oxister. Elle a fait place à l'alliance des deux Empereurs d'Allemagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie. Ce changement de situation se laissait déjà pressentir à l'époque du Congrès de Berlin, au sein duquel nos alliés firent cause commune avec nos adversaires, et les secondèrent dans leurs efforts pour entraver notre action dans les Balkans, pour restreindre les avantages auxquels nous avions droit. On ne pouvait déjà alors se méprendre sur les intentions du Comte Andrassy, dont le mauvais vouloir à notre égard ne put alors être comparé qu'à l'hostilité du Comte Beaconsfield. Les dispositions du Prince de Bismarck ne furent pas meilleures, et malgré tout ce qu'il a fait pour les dissimuler, il n'en a pas moins été acquis que ses sympathies penchaient du côté opposé, ce qui vient, d'ailleurs, d'être ouvertement confirmé dans les discours prononcés dernièrement à la Chambre des Députés en Italie. Au lendemain du Congrès, le 'Journal de St. Pétersbourg' ne constatait-il pas lui-même avec tristesse le rôle peu édifiant joué par ceux qui se disaient nos amis? Aujourd'hui, une alliance nouvelle se cimente entre l'Allemagne et l'Autriche-Hongrie, et tout fait présumer qu'elle ne s'inspirera pas de sentiments bien cordiaux à l'égard de la Russie. Des Conférences tenues à Vienne à propos de l'épidémie ont été l'occasion d'accentuer des dispositions peu bienveillantes pour nous, et, comme si ce n'était pas assez, l'arrangement qui a trait à l'Article V du Traité de Prague est venu affirmer aux yeux de tous l'alliance secrète en question. Nous avons déjà fait remarquer que cette Convention enfreint, non-seulement les intérêts directs du Schleswig septentrional, mais, ce qui est plus grave, compromet les destinées du Danemark. Quel a donc été le mobile qui a poussé l'Autriche à se désister volontairement d'avantages conquis à frais communs avec l'Allemagne? Les journaux Allemands ne font pas de façon pour nous apprendre que c'est, de la part de l'Autriche, de la simple reconnaissance pour l'appui prêté par l'Allemagne à sa politique active en Orient. Enfin, la nouvelle qui nous est transmise par notre correspondant que l'Allemagne et l'Autriche s'opposeraient à ce qu'un candidat ayant les sympathies de la Russie fût admis au trône de Bulgarie, est, à elle seule, de nature à lever les derniers doutes, si nous en avions, sur les dispositions auxquelles nous pouvons désormais nous attendre du côté de Vienne et de Berlin. La situation n'est donc pas favorable pour nous. Qu'elle soit le résultat de nos fautes, ou de notre trop grande confiance, il n'en faudra pas moins de longs et persévérants efforts pour arriver à en conjurer les inconvénients."

No. 56.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 25, 1879.

I INQUIRED to-day from M. de Giers whether there was any truth in the report of General Tchernaieff having gone to Bulgaria, and what was the object of his visit.

His Excellency said that the Imperial Government had learnt that General Tchernaieff had been to Nisch, that he had sought for an interview with the Prince of Servia, who at first declined, and subsequently received him, but very coldly.

M. de Giers was unacquainted with the object of his visit to Servia, which was disapproved by the Imperial Government, and General Todleben had consequently been instructed by telegraph to find out the present residence of General Tchernaieff, and to order him to return to St. Petersburgh.

His Excellency added that General Tchernaieff had been reinstated in the Imperial army last summer.

I cannot think that General Tchernaieff has received any official mission of a civil or military character, but it is very possible that he may be an agent of the Moscow Slav Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 57.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith abstracts taken by Mr. Michell from the Russian press, giving the order in which the Russian troops which are being recalled from Turkey will be moved to their various home stations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Newspaper Extract.

Order of Return of Russian Troops to Russia.—According to the "Pravda" (a newspaper published at Odessa), the return of the Russian troops from Turkey will commence in a few days. The first detachment will arrive at Odessa on the $\frac{1}{13}$th February, the last on the $\frac{1}{13}$th March. On their arrival the troops will not be allowed to enter the town, but will be placed in quarantine, where they will be subjected to disinfection; in the quarantine building are two large baths, which will be of great service in this respect. The mattresses used by the sick during their transport from Turkey to Odessa will be stocked in special barges and dispatched to sea.

The following troops will return by way of Odessa: the Borodirno, Moscow, Butyrsk, Tarutinsk, Rayzau, Riga, Beleff, Tula, Nevsky, Sofia, and Narva Regiments of Infantry; the 17th, 18th, and 1st Brigade of Artillery; the 1st and 2nd Reserve Battalions; the staffs and ambulances of the 1st, 17th, and 18th Divisions; the 22nd and 26th Divisional Flying Parks; the 9th, 13th, and 14th Cavalry Sections of Flying Parks; the 5th and 6th Battalions of Sappers; the 2nd Field Engineers, and 4th and 6th Military Telegraph Parks; the 48th, 50th, 51st, 53rd, 56th, 62nd, 66th, and 71st Field Hospitals; the second section of the 4th, the first section of the 6th, and fourth section of the 8th Mobile Artillery Parks.

By way of Sevastopol: the Nejinsk, Bolkhoff, Morshansk, Zaraisk, Kaluga, Libau, Revel, and Esthonian Regiments of Infantry; the staffs and ambulances of the 35th and 2nd Divisions; the 39th, 38th, and 41st Flying Artillery Parks; the 35th and 2nd Artillery Brigades; the Kuban Cossack Regiment; the Don Cossack Regiment No. 34; No. 8 Don Cossack Battery; the third section of the 10th, and fourth detachment of the 12th Mobile Artillery Park (attached to 17th Division of Infantry); the 7th, 9th, and 78th Field Ambulances.

By way of Ismail and Bender: Vladimir Lancers, Narva Hussars, Astrakan Dragoons, Vosnezensk Lancers, Luban Hussars, Don Cossack Regiment Nos. 8 and 13, Horse Battery Nos. 20 and 15, Don Cossack Battery Nos. 1 and 16. Staff of 13th Cavalry Division; Don Cossack regiments Nos. 31, 35, 40, and 20th; and the 8th, 12th, and 13th Divisions of Cavalry.

The "Molva" of the $\frac{1}{13}$th February states that, according to information received at St. Petersburgh, the evacuation of Turkish territory by the Russian troops is being actively carried out. The country to the south and south-east of Adrianople is already denuded of Russian forces; it also adds that the remaining portions of Turkish

territory will be finally evacuated by the 9th of March, or twenty-nine days after the conclusion of the final Treaty of Peace. The evacuation will be effected partly by way of Bourgas, and partly through the Dobrudscha. . . .

The "Odessa Vestnik" states that the "Moscow," one of the vessels belonging to the volunteer fleet, arrived at Odessa on the $\frac{5}{17}$th February, having on board eighty-nine cadets of the Bulgarian militia. All these young men, it is stated, will proceed to Elizavetagrad for the purpose of passing through a course of instruction in the Elizavetagrad Cavalry School.

The "Pravda" states that a telegram has been received from a member of the Red Cross at Adrianople, to the effect that the number of sick in the Russian army who are to be sent to Sevastopol and Odessa amounts to 10,000 men. In view of such a considerable number of invalids, the field staff of the active army have found it necessary to charter a special steamer for conveying the sick. The cruizer "Moscow" will also be engaged in this service.

No. 58.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

THE Exarch, whom I had not heard of nor seen for some time, sent to me this morning a Memorandum, and subsequently called himself. He says that if something is not done for the Bulgarian Church the causes of dissension will not be removed, and room will still be left for Russian intrigues,—that the Austrians are intriguing to get Macedonian Bulgarians to become Uniates.

The proposition at the deputation to Europe from this, and which he favoured, was to accept Treaty of Berlin, but to ask for certain securities. This has been stopped by intrigues at Tirnova in favour of a Pan-Bulgarian deputation, to which he is opposed, to stop emigration from neighbourhood of Adrianople, and he believes the population is calmer. Here he thinks new order of things will be accepted quietly if the population see there is no chance of oppression by the Turks. The Russians, he believes, are too much exhausted to urge on any movement which might bring on war.

He is very anxious that the Governor-General should give the Berat. Baron Ring is drawing up Chapter "des Cultes."

The Exarch says that Austrian Commissioner intrigued with Macedonians in an Uniat sense, to prevent his accepting an offer of Dondoukoff to establish himself at Sofia.

No. 59.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

I UNDERSTAND that after the evacuation of Adrianople Prince Dondoukoff, who succeeds to the chief command of the army, will reside here. I now hear that the election of Prince lies between Prince Reuss and Battenberg.

No. 60.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

EVERYTHING went on to-day very rapidly. We have adjourned till Tuesday, as we are getting beyond the powers of both Protocolists and printers. It will, perhaps, be best not to express any satisfaction, as Austrian Commissioner and myself are, notwithstanding, still very reserved. The other day Tzeretelew answered to a complaint of mine by quoting some expressions of Sir Stafford Northcote about the Treaty being carried out satisfactorily.

No. 61.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

FRENCH Military Attaché is discussing gendarmerie with Russians and Colonel Vitalis. I think his ideas are sound. His is of opinion that the best course would be a mixed occupation with Central Military Commission at Philippopolis. The contingents of other Powers could be quartered separately, and subjected, for political purposes, to Central Military Commission. In the absence of this scheme, one proposed by Mr. Malet, or that suggested in my despatch 162 of the 12th December last, might be sufficient.

On the arrival of General Dickson we may, together, submit some views to Her Majesty's Government.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 62.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Mr. Malet:—

"Confidential. There is a report here that Rustem Pasha refuses the office of Governor-General. This is unfortunate, as in the case of their being no force at the time of the evacuation to maintain terms of Treaty, it is suggested by leading Bulgarians that a provisional Government should be formed under the protection of militia.

"The French declare themselves afraid of a coalition between Russia and Austria."

No. 63.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 2, 1879.

THE Russian note is to the following effect:—

Russian Ambassador would have raised no objection to the financial arrangement if the revenues assigned had been restricted to those mentioned in the Protocol No. 11, but that, in according new revenues not previously hypothecated, such as Tribute of Bulgaria, Porte ignores the incontestible right of priority of Russia over all the revenues not hypothecated at the moment of the signature of the Treaty of Berlin.

Russian Ambassador cannot view with indifference a Commission for the administering the finances, in which the French and the English alone figure besides Ottomans.

He, therefore, declares that his Government opposes every new hypothecation as long as guarantees for war indemnity shall not have been given. Russian Ambassador in conclusion recommends the establishment of a Commission according to the terms of Protocol 18.

No. 64.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3 1879

GENERAL TCHERNAIEFF left Constantinople on Friday for Odessa

No. 65.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Wolff:—

"(Most Confidential.)

"I learn that secret efforts are being made to win over the Sultan and the Grand Vizier to the idea of an European Governor for Eastern Roumelia, and that M. Coutouly, French Assistant Commissioner, has been suggested as the right person for the post. A Frenchman named Castellane is working it with the concurrence of Raouf Pasha, Governor of Adrianople. He asserts that Grand Vizier has listened to him favourably. French Ambassador knows the scheme, and probably supports it actively. Russian Ambassador said to me yesterday that the only possible hope of Eastern Roumelia being peaceably handed over was the nomination of an European Governor. But he suggested a Belgian or a Swiss."

No. 66.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks whether the message suggesting Baker Pasha's appointment to command of the army of occupation of Eastern Roumelia is to be regarded as the answer to the Grand Vizier's request for the views of Her Majesty's Government regarding the course which they recommend to the Porte, and whether His Highness may not hope for a complete exposition of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

No. 67.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

INSTRUCTIONS have not yet been [? sent] to Moukhtar Pasha at Prevesa, as the line to be offered to Greece has not been decided on.

(Sent to Mr. Corbett.)

No. 68.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Convention negotiations are dealing with the fourth point. Austria refuses to name places to be occupied in Novi-Bazar district and strength of garrisons, and insists upon reserving the matter for future arrangement. This causes the Porte to be very suspicious of the ultimate intentions of Austria. The two first points have been reserved for negotiation after the settlement of the rest. Instructions have not been received from the Austrian Government as to the third point.

No. 69.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Report of the Commission on the changes to be made in accordance with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin is before the Council, but has not been examined. I have urged his Excellency strenuously to try

and expedite its examination, as it is most important that the Special Commissions provided for by the Treaty should be appointed.

No. 70.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1879.

THE answer of the Porte to the Russian note is to the following effect:—

Porte has never failed in its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin and its Protocols. It never assigned to Russia a special place in the series of its creditors. It has made no engagement restricting its right to use its revenues for the good of the State. The present financial operation should not be attacked by its creditors, as it diminishes the debt and liberates revenues previously pledged. The Bulgarian Tribute was always intended by Powers to be assigned to the creditors. (See Protocol No. 7.) The Commission of Administration has no political character. The International Commission recommended by Congress has no object now, as the purpose for which it was to be established has been accomplished.

The note was signed this afternoon.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 3, 1879.

SINCE Her Majesty's Government expressed their concurrence in Count Andrassy's declaration of its being a point of honour that the Russian evacuation should be completed by the 4th of May, it has become known that the Russian Government only consider themselves bound to commence evacuation at that date, and that, as in the case of Roumania, they are allowed three months more for its completion.

Does this make any difference in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the interpretation since placed upon the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin?

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 3, 1879.

ABSENCE of Count Andrassy makes it difficult for me to do anything about Austrian Convention with the Porte without putting myself forward more than I think from your telegram of the 27th ultimo you would wish me to do.

In a private letter to the Count, conveying Sir H. Layard's regret at not seeing him, I said that as he had been doing his best to induce the Porte to accept the Convention, which it now seemed disposed to do in terms that I hoped would not be considered inacceptable, I had been very anxious that Sir H. Layard should talk to his Excellency about it, when he would have told him that if the word "temporary" could be introduced in some harmless shape, he believed it would ensure the conclusion of the Convention.

I added that you wished to continue to give Count Zichy any support in your power in getting this matter arranged, and that it might perhaps be useful if he would let me know the points about which a difficulty still remains.

I did not like to go further.

No. 73.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 3, 1879.

THE long-promised instructions not having been received by Turkish Commissioners at Prevesa, or any proposals made by them, Greek Government instructed Greek Minister at Constantinople to press Porte to send them.

Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs answered yesterday that instructions were being prepared, and attempted to throw the blame of nothing being done at Prevesa on Greeks, woo had proposed nothing.

M. Fournier expressed to Greek Minister the hope that negotiations would not be broken off.

M. Delyanni asked me what course I thought Government ought to follow under these circumstances. I said that, at all events, they should wait to see what Turkish proposals were before recalling their Commissioners. He spoke with apprehension of effect which would be produced in Greece if she failed to obtain what was recommended at Berlin, the least she could.

I said that an attempt to take this by force would be fatal to Greece and favourable only to Austria and Slav pretensions, which are opposed to Hellenic interests.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 74.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 3, 1879.*

RUSSIA, not satisfied with evacuation of disputed position, displays in every way her displeasure with the public Roumanian Administration, and makes the Russian Minister leave Bucharest without presenting even letter of recall, whilst the position of the Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburgh is made almost untenable.

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.*

A VERY strong representation has been made by the Russians, requesting that we should remove our fleet before the evacuation of Southern Roumelia was absolutely complete, on the alleged ground that its remaining till the end of the evacuation is a humiliation to them. Before deciding on this request we should be glad of your opinion, whether any importance is attached at Constantinople to the movements of the fleet, and whether its retirement below the Dardanelles would have a bad effect.

No. 76.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 3, 1879, 2:45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 132 of the 27th ultimo, Grand Vizier's question was of so much importance that I submitted it to the Cabinet before answering. Inform him that we are decidedly of opinion he should uphold Sultan's rights in Eastern Roumelia under Treaty of Berlin, and that there is no danger of any adverse expression of English opinion if he executes that duty with regular troops under officers charged to avoid all unnecessary severities.

In order to reassure English opinion on this subject, we shall propose to him to allow some English officers of high rank to accompany the Turkish regiments, in order to bear witness of their conduct. The agitation in England was caused by outrages on women and children, and by slaughter of men who were evidently innocent. Neither the Ottoman Government nor any other can avoid the effusion of blood in putting down a rebellion; and if the Ottoman Government simply does what is necessary for this purpose it will not be blamed.

I concur in the suggestions made by Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your telegram No. 133 of the 27th ultimo. At the request of the Russian Government we propose to set the Boundary Commission to work as soon as possible.

No. 77.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 73 of the 25th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government approve the language your Excellency held to M. Depretis in your conversation with his Excellency respecting the affairs of Egypt.

No. 78.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called upon me to-day to ask for replies to the three Circular despatches from Prince Gortchacow, copies of which have been forwarded to your Excellency with my despatch No. of this day's date.

With regard to the first of these, which presses for a definite settlement of the delimitation of the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria in the Dobrudscha, I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government must consider it carefully.

As to the second, which treats of the frontier line between the Principality of Bulgaria and the Province of Eastern Roumelia, I said that I saw no reason for abandoning any precautions with respect to the frontier that were taken at Berlin; that Turkey was exhausted, and little likely to attack Bulgaria; and that indeed the history of Turkey for some generations past had included many defensive wars but no aggressive one, and that the present excited condition of the Bulgarians rather pointed to a danger of their invading Turkey.

With regard to the third Circular respecting the question whether the right bank of the Danube or the thalweg should form the northern frontier of Bulgaria for that portion of the Principality which is bounded by the course of the river, I said that my personal inclination was to think that the balance of argument lay on the Russian side, but that I had at present no definitive resolution to communicate.

Count Schouvaloff then dwelt much on the importance of a mixed occupation in Eastern Roumelia, and on the impossibility of conducting bloodlessly the transition from the present régime to that provided under the Treaty. He said that he thought that a force of two or three regiments for this purpose would suffice. What was important he considered was the question of the uniforms and the flags. If this precaution were taken, he thought there might be rest in Eastern Roumelia for some years; but if, directly the backs of the Russians were turned, the news should arrive that the Turkish troops had been poured in, and that blood was shedding, he would not answer for the consequences.

Count Schouvaloff told me that he had seen a suggestion in the newspapers for a "nach-conferenz" of Ambassadors, which should settle all the minor questions left undetermined by the Treaty of Berlin.

I said that if such an idea were entertained, it would be necessary to make it very clear that there was no question of modifying the Treaty, but only of coming to an understanding upon unsettled details. To this view he fully assented.

His Excellency said that his previous remarks had been merely in the nature of personal suggestions. He was instructed, however, to make one official request, viz., that the British fleet should be removed from the Sea of Marmora before the last Russian soldier had disappeared from Southern Roumelia. Count Schouvaloff said that this would be looked upon as a courteous act, but that it would bear the contrary aspect if England waited to see the entire Russian force across the frontier of Eastern Roumelia before the fleet was moved.

His Excellency, in conclusion, remonstrated, but not officially, against what he considered was a discourteous protest made to the Shah by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran against the employment of a Cossack officer to organize His Majesty's Body-guard.

Without admitting that any such formal protest had been made, I pointed out to him that any plan for reorganizing the Persian army under the guidance of Russian officers could not be looked upon by us as a wholly indifferent matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 79.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 274.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a telegram addressed by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha, which has been communicated to me by his Excellency, intimating the wish of the Porte that Major Clarke should return forthwith to Constantinople, in order to confer with his Ottoman colleagues on the Asiatic Boundary Commission.

I have informed Musurus Pasha that it had been arranged between Count Schouvaloff and myself that Major Clarke would be instructed to take part officially in demarcating only that portion of the frontier which lies between Karaoughan and Persia.

I forward with this despatch copies of the correspondence, as marked in the margin,* which I have had with Count Schouvaloff upon this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 80.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 276.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

I DULY received your telegram No. 132 of the 27th ultimo, conveying the inquiry of the Grand Vizier whether, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be advisable that the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority in Eastern Roumelia on the withdrawal of the Russian troops should be carried out in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, even with the apparent certainty that it will necessitate a resort to force and a renewal of the conflict between Mussulmans and Christians.

The question seemed to me to be one of so much importance that I thought it right to submit it to the Cabinet before sending you a reply.

I have now requested you to inform the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government are decidedly of opinion that the rights of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia, as defined in the Treaty of Berlin, should be upheld, and that there is in their judgment no cause to apprehend any adverse expression of English opinion provided that the duty of asserting His Majesty's authority is executed by regular troops under officers charged to avoid all unnecessary severities.

In order to reassure public opinion in England upon this point, Her Majesty's Government have it in contemplation to propose to the Turkish Government that some English officers of high rank should accompany the Turkish regiments sent into the province to bear witness of their conduct. The agitation against Turkey in this country in the autumn of 1877 was occasioned by the reports of outrages perpetrated on women and children, and of the wholesale slaughter of men who were evidently innocent. But neither the Ottoman nor any other Government can avoid the effusion of blood in suppressing an armed rebellion, and if the Turkish authorities do no more than what is necessary for the purpose of restoring the legal authority of the Government, their conduct will not meet with disapproval in other countries.

The suggestions made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (as recorded in your subsequent telegram of the same day) respecting the expediency of a speedy occupation of the Balkan frontier on the withdrawal of the Russian forces, and the desirability of proceeding with the demarcation of that frontier without delay, seem well worthy of consideration. The Russian Government have expressed their desire that the Boundary Commission should recommence operations as soon as possible, and Her Majesty's Government are ready to take steps for that purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 278. Secret.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador has strongly urged upon me the wish of his Government that the British fleet should be withdrawn from the Sea of Marmora before the evacuation of Southern Roumelia is absolutely complete. The reason given for this request is that it will be discourteous and humiliating to Russia if the fleet remains within the Dardanelles until the last Russian soldier has crossed the frontier.

Before a decision is taken upon this question, Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn whether any great importance is attached at Constantinople to the movements of the fleet, and whether its retirement below the Dardanelles would have a bad effect.

I have accordingly telegraphed to you to ask your opinion upon these points.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 82.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 280.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

MUSURUS PASHA called upon me some days ago to speak about the negotiations that are now going on at Prevesa as to the proposed rectification of the Greek frontier.

His Excellency informed me that any considerable cessions by the Porte in Epirus were not possible, as the feeling of the population was so much averse to them. He also said that the town of Larissa, being largely Mahommedan, must necessarily remain under the Government of the Porte, and that it would be also requisite to preserve for it the port of Volo, which was its natural outlet. I told him that in our opinion the Porte had good reason for declining to cede Janina to Greece, as by all the accounts that we received the population were averse to any such cession of territory; but on the side of Thessaly no such reason was sustainable. It might be possible, I said, so to draw the frontier indicated by the Congress as to leave the town of Larissa, with its Mahommedan population, under the Government of the Porte; but the further proposal to make the port of Volo inseparable from Larissa was one which I did not think the Porte would be wise to insist upon, or which would be compatible with those permanent relations of friendliness with Greece which it had been the object of the recommendations of the Congress to secure.

I told Musurus Pasha that I knew that the French Government were anxious to insist upon the cession of Janina to Greece, but that upon this point they had been informed that Her Majesty's Government were unable to agree with them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 83.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 44.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

M. BRATIANO called upon me the day before yesterday and represented to me that the conduct of Prince Gortchacow and the Russians towards the Roumanians had been, as he expressed it, "brutal in the extreme." He repeated to me what he had said at a previous interview, that the Roumanians had not occupied Arab-Tabia in force, but had only eight or nine men there, while the Russians advanced to take possession of it with 8,000.

M. Bratiano pressed upon me very earnestly that the Powers should uphold the decision of the majority of the Boundary Commissioners with respect to the disputed point of frontier, and that the matter should be settled within the briefest possible interval, so as not to give occasion for any conflict between Bulgaria and Roumania after the former State had been fully constituted.

I promised him that Her Majesty's Government would do what lay in their power to procure a settlement of this question, and I said that their opinion remained unchanged that the decision of the six Commissioners should be sustained; but I observed that there was under the Treaty no right of imposing the will of the majority of the Powers upon the minority; that the matter could only be settled by negotiation; and that, therefore, it was impossible to foresee the exact period which would be required in order to obtain an adjustment.

M. Bratiano then proceeded to press upon me the advisability of recognizing Roumania at once, in order to give to the existing Government sufficient popular strength to carry the elections and secure the execution of the Treaty of Berlin in respect to religious liberty; and he asked me to undertake to urge the French Government to join with England in that course without waiting for the assent of Germany. This promise, however, I declined to give.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1878.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, under the Ist, IInd, and XLVIth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, I transmit to you herewith a Commission, under the Royal Sign-Manual and Signet, empowering you to act in that character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1879.

IN reply to your letter marked Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship does not consider it to be necessary, under present circumstances, that one of Her Majesty's ships-of-war should be stationed temporarily in the Gulf of Arta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 86.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, January* 26, 1879.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 4, Political, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the departure of the Wali Abdul Rahman Pasha for Sert, the appointment of Deputy-Governor was offered to the newly-arrived Cadi, Ahmed Kholoussi Effendi, but being declined by him, on the grounds that he was an absolute stranger to the province, it was conferred on the Dufterdar, who is, therefore, now acting as Deputy during the absence of the Wali.

I offered to call to pay my respects to the new Deputy, but he has been incapacitated by fever and ague (to which also the Wali was a martyr) from attending to business.

I have, during the past week, paid a visit to Ahmed Kholoussi Effendi, the Cadi, one of the numerous Ulemas banished from Constantinople at the same time as Mahmoud Damat Pasha, some few weeks ago. I was very cordially received by him. He is, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, the Envoy who was dispatched by the Sultan to Cabul

about a year ago on a special mission to the Ameer of Afghanistan. He had evidently been most agreeably impressed with his reception by our Indian officials, of whom he spoke most cordially and handsomely. He is an intelligent man, and seems to have been much impressed with the glories of the Taj Mahal, and other sights at Agra, Delhi, and elsewhere.

I was visited a few days ago by Khoorshid Bey, another of the recently exiled dignitaries. He has been nominated Mutessarif of Mardin, and did not appear to relish the idea of his change of residence. He is a pleasant, intelligent man, and I seized the opportunity to urge on him the necessity of his taking in hand the protection of the Protestants in his district. I told him of the recent assault on the American mission-house at Midyad, and of the other complaints which have been made about the oppressions of certain Beys and Aghas. He promised to take these matters in hand as soon as he should arrive and settle down at his new post, where he must by this time have arrived. Several other changes have taken place in the officials of this vilayet. Vehbi Effendi, the Mutessarif of Sert, has been removed from his post, and is now under trial, in connection with the part he played in the recent atrocities at Déhé. He has been succeeded by Feizulla Effendi, a member of the Idareh Medjliss here, and a man of no good reputation.

Ismail Bey, the Kaïmakam of Siliwan, whom I reported in my despatch No. 1 of 1879 to be rarely sober, has also been dismissed, and replaced by Yassin Effendi, a native of Diarbekir.

The Kaïmakam of Midyad, of whom it was said that he could neither read nor write, has also been dismissed, and replaced by an official who accompanied Ahmed Kholoussi and Khoorshid Bey from Constantinople. He called on me in company with the latter, and I took the opportunity of trying to interest him on behalf of the oppressed populations of his district.

The last telegrams from Sert state that the Wali Pasha has arrived there; that Osman Bey* is still at large, and that Hamid Agha,† as well as the Sert Mutessarif, are under trial; also that some of the property plundered at Déhé has been found in the house of the latter.

The Pasha, on leaving this, took with him three of the Christian notables of Diarbekir, to assist him, it is presumed, in the settlement of the affairs of Kurdistan. Two of them were Roman Catholic Armenians, and the third a Protestant. The latter gentleman, in addition to being a practising dentist, is a member of the Diarbekir Court of Appeal (Diwan-i-Temiz), for which last he receives the magnificent salary monthly of 380 piastres caimé, *i.e.*, rather less than one Turkish pound. The amount of his salary is, perhaps, unimportant, as, like many other employés, it is fourteen months in arrears. How justice can be administered by the recipient of such a salary is one of the numerous difficult problems which have yet to be solved. I may mention that the ordinary Judges of the Court of First Instance (Temiz-i-Hukuk) receive monthly salaries of 180 piastres only.

I am happy to say that this week I have no special cases of oppression to bring to your Lordship's notice; on the contrary, I learn that a few days ago a Mussulman in Diarbekir was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment for having struck and abused a Christian, so that a wholesome rebuke administered a short time ago by the Wali to the presiding Judge of the Criminal Court, with reference to the latter's prejudices in favour of his co-religionists, has not been without some good effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 86.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 6 and 10 of the 21st and 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Primates of Treboli have telegraphed last week to the Grand Vizier and to the Greek and Armenian Patriarchates to beg that their case should be submitted to the decision of a special Commission chosen among native Mussulman and Christians of Trebizond, and presided over by the Governor-General

* The rebel Chief. † The Kurdish Bey.

or an official to be purposely sent from Constantinople. As no answer was received by them, they forwarded yesterday a fresh address to the Grand Vizier. Their request is grounded on the delay of the Medjliss at Trebizond to settle their case, and on a strong desire prevailing among the members of the Courts to reinstate the Kaïmakam of Treboli in his post. The representatives of the population of that district have been here nearly a month; they consisted originally of 150 Mussulmans, two-thirds of whom returned to their country at the recommendation of the Medjliss, and of six leading Christians, who are still here.

Yussuf Pasha recognizes the impossibility to reinstate the Kaïmakam of Treboli in his post without endangering the tranquillity of that district, but he must wait for the decision of the Porte.

The representatives of the Christian populations of Treboli have waited on me yesterday, begging me to call the attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to their present position, which may grow worse by delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 87.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February 17, 1879.*

HAVING asserted in previous despatches that suspected parties were sometimes detained in prison for very long periods without trial, I take liberty to cite the case, which has lately come to my knowledge, of a Greek, who, though finally convicted, is an illustration of my assertion.

A short time since a Memorandum bearing forty-four signatures was handed to me, in which it was stated that a certain Haralambo, son of a Greek priest inhabiting the village of Matchka, had been accused, six years ago, of having murdered a Mussulman, and that he had been confined in prison since that time without trial.

Having referred the case to Yussuf Pasha, he was kind enough to make inquiries, from which it resulted that the charge was ungrounded, Haralambo having been condemned to fifteen years' hard labour, reduced to only ten in consequence of the pardon granted to all prisoners of one-third of their punishment by the present Sultan on his accession to the throne.

However, I detect from the copy of the sentence relating to the said Haralambo, that he was imprisoned in the month of Shaban, 1289 (September 1872), immediately after the crime, but that he was convicted only on the 30th Rebuil Abir, 1293 (23rd May, 1876), that is, after an imprisonment of three years and eight months.

However, Matchka, where the murder was committed, is only at eight hours from Trebizond, and the required witnesses might have been procured within a very short time.

The explanation given to Yussuf Pasha on this delay is not that it was required to procure evidence, but that, as there was a *primâ facie* evidence against the accused, the trial of his case was allowed to stand over.

Then, again, the Court of Appeal of this province, to which the sentence was submitted for revisal, did not issue the final sentence before the 2nd Djemajiul Evel, 1294 (5th May, 1878), very nearly two years after.

I must add, however, that the time of hard labour is reckoned since the date of the imprisonment under suspicion.

In the case mentioned above it so happened that the accused was finally convicted, but, as the Courts of Justice admit that a *primâ facie* evidence is sufficient to authorize the postponement for years of the trial of the accused, there cannot be any doubt that several amongst them undergo undeserved lengthy detentions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 88.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Obermuller, the Russian Consul at Erzeroum, has been raised to the rank of Consul-General, and that Major Kamzaragau, who was there during the occupation, has been appointed Military Attaché to the newly-created Consulate-General in that town.

I am informed that the Russians occupy in the vicinity of Olti several village which, according to the interpretation by the Turks of the Treaty of Berlin, should remain to Turkey, and that not content with this occupation, the Russian Consul-General claims also permission for the Cossacks stationed there to come and get provisions in the Turkish villages situated beyond that line.

The Turkish authorities have hitherto resisted the demand on the reasonable ground of reciprocity. They point out that the inhabitants of Erzeroum and of all the villages in the Alashgerd Valley as far as Bayazid can procure fire-wood only at Soghanli, from whence its exportation is prohibited by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 89.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February 20, 1879.*

IN acknowledging the receipt of despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the individuals whose names follow have been found guilty of and deserving capital punishment for the outrage at Hodoortchoor; Hussein and Halid, sons of Sherif Aga, Meolud Ceghenoglou, Hussein Carlatoglou, Peilul Mollah Alinisoglou, Meolud Gisghuirli, and Ismail Suighinin Tornou.

However, the Medjliss suspended further proceedings before issuing the final sentence, which must be submitted to the Porte for confirmation before its execution.

I understand from Koost Ismail Pasha, who started yesterday for Constantinople, that the motive which has induced the Medjliss of Erzeroum to do so is that both outrages at Moburgut and Hodoortchoor are so connected with each other that all the accused parties, three of whom were in the prisons of Trebizond for the first outrage, must be examined and tried at the same time.

The three individuals in question having been forwarded to-day to Erzeroum under a strong escort, together with twenty other prisoners condemned to undergo their term of detention in that town, the pretext put forward for postponing the trial will no longer exist.

But having admitted the principle stated above, the Medjliss might allow again the trial to stand over until all the culprits that are still at large are apprehended, an event which may never take place.

However, Ismail Pasha is of opinion that the Courts of Justice at Erzeroum will perform their duty to the end; but the Armenians, who had been gratified at the energy displayed at first, begin now to find fault with the present delay, which they attribute to the wish of the Medjlisses, that they accuse to be open to bribery, to allow the culprits to evade punishment.

They cite, in support of their assertion, that a certain Medet, son of Deli Mehmed, one of the principals in the outrage at Moburgud, and who lives quietly at Tortoun, was never brought to Erzeroum; that Salatchoorti Rashid and his son Hafiz have been released, though both of them are, they say, not only parties in the outrage at Hodoortchoor, but have also murdered three years ago a certain Filipos at the village of Garmerik, and plundered through their men, eight months since, of 50,000 piastres, seven Armenians going from Erzeroum to Hodoortchoor, and that another Chief of brigands, Godal Ibrahim by name, was lately apprehended and brought to Erzeroum, but released without trial a few days after.

The Armenians point out that while some of the Mussulmans now in prison are

believed innocent, there are still at large several on whose culpability there is not the slightest doubt.

Besides Doorsoon, and Hassan Tuiliaglou, and Hussein Oubashi, of whom I spoke in my despatch No. 8 of the 23rd January last, they mention the son of the latter, Rashid, and Memich Tuiliaglou, Suleiman Giorgauzli Sulucanaglou, Mahmoud Hunudly Tatighinaglou, and the sons of Terzelli.

The Armenians, who believe that no further results will be obtained without foreign pressure, ascribe, as I have done myself in my despatch to your Lordship No. 161 of the 14th November last, the non-apprehension of the culprits still at large to their being protected by Doochdji Oglu Mahmoud Aga, of Rijeh, and by his son-in-law, Mahsoud Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 90.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

March 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE to-day received a fresh telegram from M. Delyanni, and his Excellency desires me to communicate its contents as a continuation of the letter which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 22nd ultimo.

In reply to the second note of the Greek Commissioners, Moukhtar Pasha stated verbally that he hoped to receive in a few days definite instructions from the Porte.

On the 22nd February he apprized the Greek Commissioners, through his secretary, that on the 20th he had received a telegram from Constantinople, informing him that the instructions he had asked for would reach him in two or three days.

Five days had elapsed since then and seven since the second note of the Greek Commissioners, and yet no further meeting had been fixed upon by Moukhtar Pasha.

On the 27th ultimo Constant Pasha, the second Turkish Commissioner, paid a visit to the Greek Commissioners, and, in the course of friendly conversation, he adverted to the probable causes of the interruption of telegraphic communication with Constantinople, allowing it thus to be inferred that such was the reason of the delay.

Consequent upon the foregoing facts, His Majesty's Envoy at Constantinople has been instructed to address to the Porte a note recording that, during the four sittings held at Prevesa, the Turkish Delegates put forward two points wholly foreign to the objects of the meeting, and finally adjourned, alleging that they should now obtain from their Government the instructions essential to the accomplishment of the mission which had necessitated their presence at Prevesa. During the fifteen days which have since expired, the Greek Commissioners have in vain awaited to be called upon to resume negotiations. Their Turkish colleagues excuse themselves on the plea that they have not yet received the desired instructions. Such a position of affairs is abnormal in itself and painful to the Hellenic Government. As, however, the Greek Envoy entertains the conviction that the Turkish Government observes the engagements it has undertaken by the appointment of its Commissioners and the opening of negotiations, M. Countouriotis requests the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to send instructions to the Commissioners as soon as possible, and to inform him on what date those instructions will have reached the Ottoman Commissioner at Prevesa.

I avail myself of this opportunity to submit to your Lordship's consideration the copy of another despatch which I have received from M. Delyanni, and which sheds further light on the use made, in the meanwhile, by the Porte of the leisure imposed on its Commissioners, who were sent to Epirus avowedly on a mission of peace and conciliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 90.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

Monsieur,

Athènes, le $\frac{5}{21}$ *Février*, 1879.

PAR mes précédentes dépêches, je vous ai tenu au courant des manœuvres du Gouvernement Ottoman, ayant pour but de créer parmi les Albanais une agitation factive et provoquer des manifestations contre l'annexion de Janina à la Grèce.

Cette tactique continue toujours d'après les rapports de nos autorités Consulaires à Monastir et Argyrocastro.

Mais toutes ces tentatives n'ont abouti qu'à prouver que même les Albanais Musulmans sont tellement fatigués du joug qui pèse sur eux, qu'un grand nombre se montre déjà disposé de l'échanger contre une administration régulière. La Ligue Albanaise, qui a eu un si grand retentissement en Europe, se trouve en état de dissolution, et le mouvement Albanais a perdu toute l'importance qu'on a voulu lui attribuer.

La remise de Podgoritza aux Monténégrins, qui s'est effectuée sans qu'une goutte de sang fut versée, donne la mesure des menaces Albanaises.

D'après le rapport sus-mentionné de notre Consul à Argyrocastro, quelques Beys Musulmans ont convoqué les principaux habitants Chrétiens, et leur ont proposé d'envoyer à Preveza une députation pour prier Moukhtar Pacha de contribuer à l'établissement d'une Préfecture Albanaise, ayant pour siége Janina. Mais les Chrétiens ont repoussé cette proposition.

Les Albanais Chrétiens professent le plus grand attachement pour la Grèce, avec laquelle ils sont liés par des liens de race et de souffrances communes.

Quant aux Albanais Musulmans, ils ont prouvé, en plusieurs circonstances, qu'ils ne sont guère attachés à l'Administration Turque et une grande méfiance règne dans leurs rapports avec les autorités Ottomanes. Le massacre du Mehemet Ali Pacha en est une preuve récente. La Porte, d'ailleurs, ne se fait pas illusion sur la fidélité plus que douteuse des Albanais, et, si elle encourage en ce moment leurs aspirations nationales, c'est pour faire croire à l'Europe que l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, en ce qui concerne la Grèce, donnera lieu à des luttes sanglantes, à cause de la résistance présumée des Albanais.

Mais l'Europe est déjà à même d'apprécier, à leur juste valeur, toutes ces manœuvres de la Porte, et j'espère que vous saisissez toute occasion opportune pour éclairer le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) TH. P. DELYANNI.

No. 91.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 4, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER requests me to tender his sincere thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the communication of their views with regard to Eastern Roumelia, which he will submit at once to the Sultan.

He now asks your Lordship to be so good as to use your good offices with Russian Government to enable Porte to occupy Balkans previously to evacuation. By this means he has a hope that the necessity for occupying the rest of the province militarily may be avoided. Russian Ambassador has given Porte unequivocal assurances of intention of his Government to execute Treaty of Berlin, and the Grand Vizier considers that this measure would facilitate matters, and would be in harmony with assurances of Prince.

(Sent to Wolff.)

No. 92.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. . Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 4, 1879.

I HAVE consulted the Grand Vizier very confidentially as to the effect which would be produced at Constantinople by the withdrawal of the fleet previously to the evacuation

of Southern Roumelia. His Highness replied, that in his opinion it would have a tranquillizing effect; that there was a war party which [opposed ?] pacification by asserting that the war might break out again at any moment. He thought presence of the fleet contributed to the sinister influence of this party.

He, however, suggested that if Her Majesty's Government withdraw the fleet they might do it as a concession to Russia, and use it as a lever to induce Russia to allow Porte to occupy Balkans previously to the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia.

Great importance is certainly attached here to the movements of the fleet, but I think its withdrawal would be regarded as a sign that England was satisfied with the prospects of the execution of the Treaty. Perhaps the order might be accompanied with a declaration that it was given in consequence of distinct and satisfactory assurances which have recently been given by Russia.

No. 93.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 32, our view has always been that the Russians are bound to evacuate on the 3rd May. But I don't think the Treaty would justify us in saying that the evacuation must be complete by that time, for the Treaty says distinctly that the occupation is to last nine months, and the few troops left during the last stage of an evacuation hardly constitute an occupation. The more natural sense of the Article seems to me to be that the occupation and all powers exercised in virtue of it must cease on May 3; that the evacuation must take place with reasonable dispatch; and that there must be no Russian soldier this side of the Pruth on the 3rd August.

If Count Andrassy wishes us to act on the other theory we ought to commence pressure without delay, for it is now only just possible materially to get all the troops north of the Danube by the 3rd May.

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1879, 6·40 P.M.*

I APPROVE your language to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your telegram of the 3rd instant.

No. 95.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 139.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 32), in which it is stated that it has become known at Vienna that the Russian Government consider themselves bound to commence, not to complete, the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia on the 4th of May next, and hold that, as in the case of Roumania, they will be allowed three months from that date within which the withdrawal of their forces shall be completed.

To your Excellency's inquiry as to the views of Her Majesty's Government on this point, I have to reply that they have not as yet expressed a definite opinion upon it. I stated to you in my despatch No. 72 of 6th ultimo, that they concurred in Count Andrassy's opinion that the occupation must absolutely terminate by the 4th of May, and that it must not be allowed, under any pretext, to extend beyond the term assigned by the Treaty of Berlin. This view has always been maintained, and it implies the opinion that the Russian forces are bound to evacuate on the 3rd of May. I doubt, however, whether the words of the XXIInd Article can be said clearly to lay down that the evacuation must be completed by the day named.

It is distinctly stated in the Article that the duration of the occupation is fixed at nine months, and that the occupying force is to be 50,000 men. It is, therefore, questionable

whether the few troops which would remain in the provinces during the last stage of an evacuation would constitute an occupation within the meaning of the Treaty. The more natural sense of the Article (which is obscurely expressed) seems to me on the whole to be that the occupation, and all powers exercised in virtue of it, must cease on the 3rd of May; that the evacuation must take place with reasonable despatch, and that there must be no Russian soldiers on this side of the Pruth on the 3rd of August.

If Count Andrassy holds the theory that the evacuation must be completed on the 4th of May, and wishes Her Majesty's Government to act in that sense, it is obvious that pressure should be commenced without delay, for not a day must be lost, if it is hoped to make it materially possible that all the Russian troops should be able to cross the Danube by that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 113.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1879.*

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me yesterday that the German Government had resolved to recognize Servia, and that they expected by so doing to encourage Roumania to accept the conditions of religious liberty for all creeds in the Principality prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin.

I pointed out to his Excellency that, according to the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government, the two Principalities were in exactly the same position. In each case the Government had promised conformity to the Treaty of Berlin, and had obtained the sanction of the existing Legislature; but in each case a change of the Constitution was necessary to admit of the execution of the promise, and the proposals for carrying out the stipulations of the Treaty must consequently be submitted to a more important assembly than the existing Legislature before they could become law. I did not understand, therefore, on what principle, logically tenable, it was possible to recognize the independence of Servia without also recognizing the independence of Roumania.

His Excellency promised to communicate my observations to his Government, and to procure me an answer. I begged him to ascertain at the same time whether, if it should turn out that Roumania had not advanced as far as Servia towards the fulfilment of the Treaty stipulations, the German Government would be content that when she should have reached the same stage her independence should be recognized. I said I was anxious to be informed as to this, as I did not see my way to making any difference in the treatment of the two Principalities, and as the two Governments had hitherto gone on the principle that whatever they agreed to regard as a satisfaction of the Treaty of Berlin should not be accepted as accomplished until the change which it involved should have actually become law.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

No. 18. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 29A and 33, Political, of the 5th and 11th ultimo, reporting your proceedings with regard to the presentation of your letter of credence to the Prince of Montenegro, and I have to express to you my approval of the course you have pursued, and of your language on the occasion of your audience of His Highness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 4, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday's date, reporting a conversation you had had with M. Delyanni respecting the delay and difficulties which are occurring in the negotiations for a rectification of the Greek frontier.

Your language to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, deprecating a rupture of the negotiations or a recourse to forcible measures, is entirely approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 99.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No 18. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, February* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly of Notables was opened this day, according to the programme which I have already detailed to your Lordship. The front row was occupied by the Bishops, Bulgarian and Greek, the Mufti of Widdin, and the Hakam-Bashi and Mollah of Sophia; the centre rows by the Presidents of Tribunals; the others by the elected or nominated members. On the raised dais at the end of the hall, and facing the Assembly, was the President's chair, with a large table for the Clerks of the House; a small side table for the Russian assistant official *ad referendum*, M. Lukianoff; and on the other side, on the same line with the Presidential chair, seats for the Delegates, the Ottoman Commissary having the highest place, and, close by, places for their Secretaries or staff. There were reserved places too for the newspaper correspondents, those of the "Times" and the "Standard" being, however, the only English ones present; also for spectators of rank, ladies, and so forth. The lower part of the hall, making up about one-third of its total extent, was open to all comers and lookers-on. These arrangements are to continue during the entire session.

The Russian Commissary on entrance asked and received the blessing of the Bishop of Widdin, as the oldest member of the clergy present; he then mounted the dais and read, standing, the opening Address, a copy of which, with a translation, I have the honour of now transmitting. There was much cheering during and at the conclusion of the Address. A Protocol, noting the fact of the overture of the Assembly, was drawn up by M. Lukianoff, and signed by the Russian Commissary; the Ottoman Commissary was next invited to sign, but declined. The Delegates, after a little deliberation among themselves, all signed, the Austro-Hungarian excepted, who immediately left the hall, and took no further part in the day's proceedings.

In the matter of signature I took the opinion of my colleagues, and followed the majority, the more readily that I could see no inconvenient result from doing so. The Protocol had been already verbally translated to us, and I have now the honour of inclosing a certified copy of the original, with a translation.

Here closed the official acts of the day. Followed, a foot procession, composed of the Members of the Assembly, and all who had been present at it, the Ottoman Commissary and the Austro-Hungarian Delegate excepted, to the old Church of the Forty Martyrs, built by a former King of the Tirnovo dynasty, at about half a mile distant. Here a thanksgiving service, after the Eastern rite, was held. Thence all returned to the Assembly House, where the Russian Commissary gave a breakfast, at which also every one, Christian, Mahommedan, and Jew, saving only the two exceptions above stated, was present. The first toast, in honour of the Emperor of Russia, was proposed by the Russian Commissary, whose health was next proposed by the Bishop of Tirnovo; the Bulgarian Principality, proposed by the Russian Commissary, was the third; that of the European Co-signatory Powers, proposed by the Deputies of the Assembly, was the fourth. This last was, at the request of my colleagues, acknowledged by myself in their name. There was much applause. After the speeches, the Deputies chaired first the Prince, then myself, then the French, Italian, and German Delegates.

During the course of the afternoon a mixed civil and military Bulgarian deputation of thanks waited on the Russian Commissary, who addressed them in my presence, earnestly inculcating on them the duty of keeping, within the Assembly and without it, strictly in accordance with the conditions of the Berlin Treaty. The same deputation waited on me at my own lodgings a little later, and I spoke to them on the same key, assuring them, in such case, of the goodwill and favour of the English Government. Whereupon they chaired me a second time. They also waited on the other Delegates, who received them favourably. At night the Russian Commissary invited us to accompany him through the town to a display of fireworks given by the local Governor. On this occasion, as on the preceding ones, the popular enthusiasm surpassed anything I have ever witnessed elsewhere. But there was no approach to riot or disorder of any kind.

The general result of the day's work has been a complete triumph for the Conservative or Treaty-abiding party, for the present, while the Ultras have been reduced to temporary insignificance. But it is hardly doubtful that they will take an early opportunity of attempting to impose their views on the Assembly. Should they succeed in their attempt, the Russian Commissioner will, he has publicly announced, declare the proceedings illegal, and the Assembly closed. But, so far as persons and things at present at Tirnovo are concerned, there seems good cause for hope that any such crisis will be avoided. The chief reason for fear is from without, where any violent disturbance in a neighbouring province, and especially in East Roumelia, might, by the counter-shock in Bulgaria, wrest the power from the hands of the partizans of order, and make it over to agitators and demagogues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Address of the Imperial Russian Commissary on the opening of the Bulgarian Assembly of Notables, at Tirnovo, February $\frac{19}{23}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

Honourable Assembly of Representatives of the Bulgarian Principality;

BY the will and at the order of His Most Gracious Majesty, my Emperor, I invite you to the opening of this your first National Assembly in your newly-liberated country; to the end of laying a solid foundation for the government and organization of the new Principality. In my quality of Imperial Russian Commissary, and in virtue of the full powers with which I am invested, I place before you, for your consideration, a Project of Organic Law regulating, after a summary fashion, the rights of the Prince and of the people of Bulgaria in what regards the Government of the country. Along with this Project of Organic Law, I supply you with a Memorandum resuming certain general rules and regulations which form the basis of the existing organization of the country in all its administrative departments. The depth and sincerity of feeling with which you cannot but regard the sacred duty imposed on you, and an earnest desire for the revival of your much-loved country, will, I doubt not, cause you fully to appreciate the greatness of your task, its historical import, and your own high honour in being chosen to it.

Your duty now is to give yourselves up exclusively to the holy work you have in hand, and, laying aside every personal and private motive, to consider impartially, attentively, and wisely the Project of Organic Law submitted to you; having solely in view the good of your country, and the solidity of its organization and government, as being the essential guarantee for its future progress, material and moral; and in accordance with all these to pronounce, frankly and conscientiously, your final decision.

The programme now laid before you has been drawn up in the intention of facilitating your work, both by the questions it suggests, and by the regulations it proposes, as seeming the most conducive to your solid advantage and prosperity. But it must not limit or thwart your own free convictions. With the fullest liberty and independence of opinion, alike in public as in private debate, let each one of you speak out, according to his conscience and conviction; and let all bear in mind that in your hands are placed the future prosperity, the destiny, and existence of your country, now aroused to a new life.

I have charged Professor Drinoff, the Director of Public Instruction and Ecclesiastical Matters, to read out to you, during your first sittings, the Memorandum addressed to you regarding the provisional organization of the country; and he can fully explain to you the action of the Russian Provisional Government, the object of

which was to prepare your social organization in the manner best adapted to Bulgarian requirements, and to raise as much as possible the material and moral level of the country committed to its charge. Turkish administration has been everywhere replaced by national; and the provisional regulations are only, as their name implies, the first step towards a permanent organization of civil rule, and the introduction of orderly method into the Administration of the country. Of these some will undoubtedly be confirmed, some altered, some added to, according to the exigencies of the times, to experience, and to public requirements; but these matters must be left to the future Administration of the country, and its Constitutional Governors; for the present moment I should counsel, as advisable, to leave the actual Ordinances in force, in order to maintain the vigour of the established Civil Administration. But, before quitting this topic, I must remind you that the Russian Administration has had to contend with many adverse circumstances; and I hope that these circumstances may go far to excuse in your eyes any irregularity I may have incurred in the course of promulgating Rules and Regulations. My sole and unique object has been throughout to re-establish the best order possible in the land, and to prepare the inhabitants for a more perfect organization, and for normal political existence.

In order to elucidate any questions which may arise during the consideration of the Organic Law, and to supply you with the necessary interpretation, I have nominated and given full powers accordingly to M. Lukianoff, the Director of the Department of Justice, during the sittings of the present Assembly. His clear and enlightened view will, I hope, be of service to you, should any difficulty arise as to the right understanding of any particular point in the programme submitted to you. But the ultimate decision rests in every case with you, and you alone.

May God Most High assist you in the fulfilment of your holy duty; may He bless your undertaking for the good and prosperity of a country so intimately connected with us Russians by blood, by the sacrifices which have been made, and by the generous sympathy of our Emperor, the Liberator of the Bulgarian people.

I now declare the first Assembly of the Representatives of the Principality of Bulgaria open; and I invite you, gentlemen here present, to sign, along with me, the Protocol to that effect, and to accompany me to the Cathedral of ancient Tirnovo, there to pray God that your labours may have a successful ending; and to thank the King of Kings for His mercy in permitting us to have been present at this great event, the resurrection, after long sufferings, of your nation.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Protocol of the opening of the National Assembly at Tirnovo, for determining the Organic Law.

(Translation.)

ON this day, the 10th of February, in the year 1879, and in accordance with the desire and will of Alexander II, Emperor of All the Russias and Liberator of Bulgaria, the Imperial Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, in the presence of the Imperial Ottoman Commissary, the Russian Diplomatic Agent in Bulgaria, and the European Delegates *ad hoc*, declared the opening of the first Assembly of the Representatives of the Principality of Bulgaria, consisting of 231 Members, M. Lukianoff, Member of the Administrative Council, having been nominated and empowered by the Imperial Russian Commissary to assist at the same, for consideration of the Project of Organic Law for the constitutional government of the Principality of Bulgaria, submitted to the Assembly by the Imperial Russian Commissary.

Tirnovo, February 10, 1879.

(Signed by: The Imperial Russian Commissary, the Delegates *ad hoc*, viz., the German, French, English, Italian, and Russian, the Members of the National Assembly, and those present on duty.)

The Undersigned, empowered thereto by the Imperial Russian Commissary, declares the above correct.

(Signed) SERGE LUKIANOFF,
Member of the Council of Administration.

Attestation.

The Undersigned attests the authenticity of the signature of the Effective Councillor of State, Serge Lukianoff, Referee for the Imperial Russian Commissary in Bulgaria at the National Assembly.

Tirnovo, February $\frac{12}{24}$, 1879.

(Signed) J. BELOTSERCOVETZ,
Imperial Consul of Russia at Tirnovo.

No. 100.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 19. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, February* 23, 1879.

I HAD the honour on the 20th instant to dispatch to your Lordship's address the following telegram from Tirnovo:—

"Most of the Deputies to the Assembly have arrived; a general public meeting preliminary to the Assembly was held to day. There are two parties, one favourable to proceeding with the Assembly according to the IVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the other proposing to adjourn without transacting anything. The principal motive for the latter course is a hope to bring on a crisis resulting in the immediate union with East Roumelia, and hastening the Russian evacuation. A second meeting will be held, and a final determination adopted on Friday. I have used my utmost influence in support of the first-named party, but the result is still doubtful."

The Friday meeting did not take place, and, by Saturday, public feeling had come round to the side of order, as I had the honour to state in my despatch No. of the 21st instant.

The principal agitator, M. Sankoff, with some of his supporters, called on me again this evening, and, after long talk, appeared convinced of the danger into which his proposal to break up the Assembly by committing it to the Boundary question would lead the Principality. Still great excitement exists, and any disquieting news from across the frontier, and especially from East Roumelia, might produce a crisis which the Provisional Government itself might find it difficult to master.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 101.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 20. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, February* 23, 1879.

YESTERDAY I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship the following telegram:—

"Assembly of the notables was opened to-day by the Russian Commissary; Ottoman Commissary and the Delegates present; afterwards procession to the church and banquet, opening speech of the Russian Commissary, and following answers to addresses in strict accordance with Berlin Treaty. Protocol of proceedings signed by all the Delegates except the Austrian. Toast to the European Powers proposed by the Bulgarian Deputies, answered by me at the request of my colleagues. Much enthusiasm, but no irregularity. Good hope of orderly proceedings of the Assembly."

To this telegram I had to-day the honour of adding as corollary the following:—

"Russian Commissary has determined to remain here till Saturday at least, in order to prevent any illegal proceedings in the Assembly, especially during the discussion of the first two Articles of the programme. The chief danger is in the excitement produced by the disturbances apprehended outside the Bulgarian frontier."

Among the possible disturbances alluded to in the above telegram, those feared as imminent in East Roumelia hold the first place. But any fresh outbreak of troubles in Macedonia, or even on the northern Greek frontier, or within the Adrianople district, would have a very sinister effect on the public mind here.

Further illustration of the above telegrams I have had the honour of conveying to your Lordship in my despatches No. , and of yesterday's and to-day's date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 102.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 255. Secret.)
Paris, March 4, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed Memorandum respecting a projected rising in Syria has been sent to me, with an intimation that it contains intelligence communicated to the sender by a French gentleman who has been has been much in the East, who wishes it to be made known to the Earl of Beaconsfield, and who would be ready to go to London to give further explanations on receiving from his Lordship an assurance that his confidence would not be betrayed.

In the meantime, the gentleman will not commit himself by putting pen to paper, though he has, it seems, declared to the person who has sent me the Memorandum that M. Grévy and M. Gambetta are aware of the project, and are in favour of it, partly as a means of distracting the attention of the French people from affairs at home.

I have had the Memorandum in my possession some days, and have sought for such information as I could obtain respecting the alleged scheme, without attempting to enter into communication with the anonymous propounder of it. I cannot say that I have learnt anything which tends to confirm his statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

THE Syrian populations are ready to rise and claim their independence under a King and Constitutional Government. Committees acting in concert have been organized in all the chief towns, from Jerusalem and Antioch to Bagdad. The delegates of these Committees have selected for their King a French citizen, who is neither Prince nor Noble. The proposed limits of the kingdom are from Satalie, on the coast north-west of Cyprus by the Taurus Chain to a point south of Erzeroum, near latitude 40°; then eastward to a point south of Erivan; then southward to a point west of Ourmia (Ooroomiah); then south-west to Erbil (Arbeld), including Kurdistan; then southward by a line east of Bagdad to latitude 30°; the southern boundary running south of the Dead Sea to Gaza on the Mediterranean.

The delegates of the Committees represent about 12,000,000 of people. They will announce their choice of a King and will address the Governments of France and England, desiring to be under their protection.

The following advantages will be secured to England:—

Alexandretta will be a free port, and Aleppo a free city. A slip of land 24 miles broad, from Alexandretta to the Tigris, will be ceded to England for a railway, to be protected by English troops or mounted police sufficient for the purpose; the new kingdom reserving only the right of free transit on the railway for its soldiers.

The advantages to France will be glory without bloodshed and union with England in the protection of a new State, which will oppose the aggression of Russia, and advance the interests of commerce and civilization.

Paris, February 18, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Mr. Mackay to Lord Lyons.

Dear Lord Lyons, 3, *Rue Balzac, Champs Elysees, February 20, 1879.*

A FRENCH gentleman, who has been much in the East, asked me on Monday to communicate the inclosed secret intelligence to Lord Beaconsfield, and to say that he is ready to go to London for further explanation, on receiving from the Earl, through me, an assurance that the confidence will not be betrayed.

Your Lordship will be surprised and perhaps amused at receiving such a communication from me. I am no politician, but having seen with my own eyes the misery of the people from the Dead Sea to Damascus, and even farther north, I should rejoice at their liberation from the misgovernment of the Turks.

My informant, who is an educated and clever man, and I believe, a Vicomte and a Captain, will not commit himself by putting pen to paper. But he declares to me that M. Grévy and M. Gambetta are aware of the project, and in favour of it, partly as a means of distracting the attention of the French people from affairs at home.

If your Lordship should wish to see my informant and question him, without requiring him to give his name, my belief is that he would be glad to call at the Embassy. He speaks no English. He might either go alone to-morrow, and present one of my visiting cards, or accompany me on Saturday or Monday. I am engaged for every hour to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ABERIGH MACKAY,
Chaplain of the Marbœuf.

No. 103.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 5, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador left for Adrianople yesterday to say good-bye to General Todleben, who proposes to leave on the 10th.

No. 104.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 5, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER spoke to me yesterday of plan to name a European Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia. He said that arguments in favour of such appointment failed to convince him of its being advisable. If the object was better government, he thought Rustem Pasha, who was an Italian, would be as good a Governor as a Swiss or a Belgian. If the object was to weaken tie between province and the Sultan, under those circumstances His Majesty's Ministers could not recommend it. He said French Ambassador stated instructions of his Government, which were to support Rustem Pasha, but added his own opinion, which was in favour of a foreigner.

French Ambassador has said to me that he would resign sooner than support a mixed occupation. Wolff's despatches show that M. Torcy, French Military Attaché, now at Philippopolis, advocates mixed occupation. French Government has one policy, its Ambassador another, and its Military Attaché a third.

(Sent to Wolff.)

No. 105.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 5, 1879.

LARGE bands of Greeks, numbering between 500 and 800, have passed the frontier into Turkey at Agrapha, pillaging and destroying the country. This is likely to have a very bad effect on the disposition of Porte with regard to negotiations at Prevesa.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 106.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 5, 1878.

CONSUL CALVERT writes, under date of 3rd instant, that the arrangements for evacuation are calculated to ensure the transfer of authority under peaceful and orderly conditions. He states that the final evacuation of Adrianople and the adjacent districts will commence on Monday, and be, it is hoped, [completed?] on the 12th.

I hear from another source that inhabitants of Kirk-kilissé are preparing to resist, and then to retire *en masse* into Eastern Roumelia. Russian Embassy states that the Russian authorities are doing their best to prevent these wholesale emigrations.

No. 107.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, March* 5, 1879.

THE German Delegate has requested instructions from Berlin regarding admission of Russian Consul-General into the Consular Commission, but has as yet received no reply. This reticence renders the united action of other Delegates impossible, and is very inconvenient at the present crisis, when strictly united action would be desirable.

The Austrian Delegate has begged me to report that his refusal to sign the Protocol was grounded on mere matters of form, and that he fully agrees in substance with my signature of that document.

No. 108.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 5, 1879.

GREEK Consul, in whose judgment I think considerable reliance should be placed, is of opinion that if Governor-General could be accompanied by an escort of 3,000 foreign troops, either mixed or belonging to a single Power, this would be quite sufficient. This would give time for arrangement of militia and gendarmerie, and for the gradual introduction without disorder of the Balkan garrisons.

The Russians refuse to give arms to the [? banditti] unless they consent to be drilled by officers.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 109.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 5, 1879.

TO-DAY being the anniversary of the accession of the Emperor, a solemn "Te Deum" was held, and a parade. Little more than an hour before the ceremony, invitations

were sent to the Commissioners; some of them, resenting the tardiness of the invitation and its wording, abstained from going, but thinking that your Lordship would not consider it right on a point of etiquette that I should be wanting in this mark of respect to the Czar, I attended with Mr. Walpole.

We were very civilly treated by General Stolipine and his staff. Besides myself there were only German and Italian Commissioners. The Austrian is unwell. It is also the anniversary of peace of San Stefano, but the invitation mentioned only anniversary of accession.

No. 110.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 5, 1879.

I HAVE just seen General Stolipine, who arrived yesterday from Adrianople and returns there to-morrow. He says he calmed the Bulgarians, and has reduced the number of those desirous of emigrating from 300,000 to 60,000. They have, he says, a great fear of Greek Kaïmakams, but have confidence in Raouf Pasha, of whom he declares he himself has a good impression. The people ask, however, that he should be named for a term of years, as otherwise he might be replaced by somebody who would ignore his amnesties and promises. General Stolipine still harps on a modification of Balkan garrisons, and on an European Governor, suggesting Vernoni. The Exarch and Metropolitan called whilst I was there, and afterwards he came into his translator's sitting-room where I was, and said that the Bulgarians hated and dreaded Greeks more than Turks. He is anxious to prepare militia and gendarmerie before we leave. He is consulting French Military Attaché, and is anxious for the arrival of General Dickson.

No. 111.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 5, 1879, 2·30 P.M.

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Malet:—

"Grand Vizier asks your Lordship to be so good as to use your good offices with Russian Government to enable Porte to occupy Balkans previously to evacuation. By this means he has a hope that the necessity for occupying the rest of the province militarily may be avoided. Russian Ambassador has given Porte unequivocal assurances of intention of his Government to execute Treaty of Berlin, and the Grand Vizier considers that this measure would facilitate matters, and would be in harmony with assurances of Prince."

You must use your own judgment as to whether this application can be made with any prospect of success.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 5, 1879.

OWING to some unexplained accident at the Post Office, I did not get your letter till this afternoon, and was, therefore, unable to send instructions in time for your interview with Waddington.

Pray express our satisfaction at finding our views so closely coincide with his, and say that unless I hear anything from you to the contrary I shall to-morrow instruct Mr. Vivian to accept the Khedive's assurance of being willing to be guided by England and France; to warn him of the serious consequences to himself if any further difficulties occur; and to consent to accept the arrangement explained in my telegram to your Lordship of the 25th ultimo, substituting the attribution of a veto to the English and French Ministers combined in place of the restoration of Nubar.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 149 of yesterday, I will communicate Grand Vizier's wish to Lord Dufferin, but from the language held to me by Count Schouvaloff I am not sanguine of success.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 5, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Minister at Constantinople has communicated to me by telegraph a request from the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government should use their good offices with that of Russia to enable the Porte to occupy the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia with a Turkish garrison before the evacuation of the province by the Russian troops is completed.

The Grand Vizier hopes that by this means the necessity for a military occupation of the rest of the province might be avoided. His Highness has received from the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople unequivocal assurances of the intention of the Russian Government to execute the engagements taken by them in the Treaty of Berlin, and he argues that the measure he now advocates would facilitate the settlement contemplated by the Treaty, and would consequently be in harmony with these assurances of Prince Labanoff.

I have informed your Excellency of the above by telegraph, but I have left it to your judgment to decide whether the application desired by the Grand Vizier can be made with any prospect of success.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 282.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 149 of yesterday's date communicating the request of the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government should use their good offices with the Russian Government to enable the Porte to occupy the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia before the Russian army of occupation is withdrawn from the province.

I will make the Grand Vizier's wishes known to Lord Dufferin, but from the language held to me by Count Schouvaloff I do not feel sanguine of the success of any representations that Lord Dufferin may make on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 275.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 5, 1879.*

YOUR Excellency's despatch No. 232, Confidential, giving an account of your conversation with M. Waddington of the 26th ultimo, relates to a matter in which Her Majesty's Government have always taken, and continue to take, a lively interest. A rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier which shall tranquillize Greece without depriving the Turkish Empire of any genuine element of strength, and shall assist the King's Government in maintaining sincere and friendly relations with his neighbour, is an object which Her Majesty's Government desire to attain not less

heartily than when at Berlin they concurred in the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of the 13th June last.

The exact settlement of the frontier-line is, however, a matter of no little difficulty. The mode of surmounting it contemplated by the Congress consisted in direct negotiations between the two countries immediately concerned, with a reserved liberty to the Great Powers of Europe to offer their mediation if the direct negotiations should fail. The proceeding which has been actually followed has been the deputation of Commissioners from either side to discuss the matter in the immediate neighbourhood of the contested territory. Experience has furnished reasons for doubting whether this change in procedure has been judicious. It has had the effect, in the first place, of removing the negotiations from the immediate influence and control of the Great Powers through their Ambassadors at Constantinople, and has therefore materially diminished the weight of counsels which would have leant uniformly to the side of expedition. In the second place, it has placed upon subordinate authorities the responsibility of making large and critical concessions. The Porte has never adhered formally to the line approximately indicated by the Six Powers at Berlin. The negotiators at Prevesa start from no fixed point of departure. It was not permissible to suppose that they would incur the odium of recommending to the Sultan a considerable and, to their view, gratuitous surrender of territory—still less that they would make it on their own responsibility. It was rather to be expected that they would take everything *ad referendum*, so as to throw wholly upon the Ministers at Constantinople the unpleasant duty of making unpalatable propositions. It appears to me that this essential vice of the plan of proceeding by local Commission is amply sufficient to account for the delays that have taken place, without assuming any intentional procrastination beyond that which belongs to the ordinary practice of the Ottoman Administration.

These considerations would induce me to draw less discouraging inferences from the progress of affairs at Prevesa than those which M. Waddington has adopted. At the same time, we cordially concur with him in thinking that the co-operation of the English and French Governments in this matter furnishes the best hope of bringing these negotiations to an early and amicable conclusion. For this purpose, however, it seems necessary that the two Governments should be generally agreed upon the line by which it is advisable that the cession should be limited.

Your Excellency reports that M. Waddington has come to the conclusion—not apparently without hesitation—that Janina ought to form part of the new Hellenic territory. Her Majesty's Government have given their careful attention to this point, but their deliberations have not led them to the same result. Whether as a question of Treaty interpretation or of general policy, the sounder reasoning appears to them to be that which would leave Janina within the limits of the Turkish Empire.

The language used in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin was avowedly vague. M. Waddington, in making the proposal which is recorded in that Protocol, and which is referred to in Article XXIV of the Treaty, spoke of himself as "proposant au Congrès d'indiquer d'une manière générale et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte les limites qu'il voudrait voir assigner à la Grèce." In another part of his speech he speaks of his proposed line as "une ligne générale," and in this sense it was manifestly understood by other speakers at the Congress. The definition itself, indeed, is couched in language which is obviously not intended to be precise. The frontier is to follow the valley of the Salambria, on the slope of the Ægean Sea, and the valley of the Kalamas, on the side of the Ionian Sea. The word "valley" is a term of undefined extent. It may be applied to the whole bed of the river from its head waters to its mouth, but it also, and, perhaps, more generally, indicates the course of the river after it has received its principal affluents, and has become a marked geographical feature of the region through which it flows. The former interpretation is not easy to apply in the present case. The Salambria is formed of the confluence of a number of small streams, none of which apparently bear its name, but some of which rise on the borders of Macedonia, and some on the borders of Greece. A line, therefore, from the head waters of the Kalamas to the head waters of the Salambria could hardly have been intended by the Congress as a frontier. If the second, and, perhaps, more usual meaning of the valley of a river be taken, Janina would certainly lie to the north of a line drawn from the valley of the Kalamas to that of the Salambria, and would remain to Turkey.

The interpretation to which, in our judgment, the words of the Protocol most naturally lend themselves is also that which considerations of policy would recommend. The case of Greece principally reposes upon the assumed fact that the territories she

seeks to possess are inhabited by a population which would prefer her rule. With respect to the southern portion of Thessaly, which is chiefly inhabited by Greeks, this condition is probably fulfilled. But in the southern part of Epirus, and especially in the neighbourhood of Janina, there is no ground for believing in the existence of such a feeling. A considerable portion of the populations are Mahommedans in religion, and a still larger proportion are Albanians in race. All the information that we have received tends to show that they are averse to any change of rulers. There can be no doubt that many of them would resist it to the utmost of their power, and there is also strong ground for believing that the Sultan could not assent to it without imperilling the allegiance of the whole of Albania. No little weight must be attached to the testimony of the Italian Consul at Smyrna, M. Goubernatis, who was recently sent by his Government to report upon this question on the spot, and who entered upon the inquiry with strong phil-Hellenic propossessions. He satisfied himself, however, after examining the actual condition of feeling in those regions, that the proposed transfer was quite impracticable.

While not concealing from M. Waddington that Her Majesty's Government have formed a definitive conclusion upon this point, you will assure him how highly they appreciate the importance of a common action on the part of England and France in the settlement of this question. Their united voices will alone have authority to inspire with moderation and prudence the counsels of the two Powers whose interests and feelings alike are so deeply affected by the solution of this controversy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 5, 1879.

THE Count de Montebello called upon me on the 1st instant, and spoke to me respecting the negotiations now going on at Prevesa for the rectification of the Greek frontier, which the French Government, he remarked, appeared to think illusory, and not likely to lead to any satisfactory result. He stated that a line had been drawn from Arta to the Gulf of Volo by the Turkish Commissioners, not even including the Plain of Pharsala, which they proposed to the Greeks as the utmost rectification of frontier to which they could assent.

I expressed to the Count de Montebello my doubt whether the delays which had taken place in this matter were to be traced to any other cause than the habitual procrastination of all Turkish negotiations. I further informed him that Her Majesty's Government had received no official information from Constantinople with respect to the line he had mentioned, but that the Turkish Ambassador had intimated something of the kind to me without going far into details; and that I had told his Excellency that I thought the Turkish proposals on the Thessalian side would not satisfy either Greece or the Powers. At the same time I told the Count de Montebello that I was unable to concur with the French Government in thinking that Janina was included in the proposed cession by the line drawn at the Congress, or that it ought, as a matter of public policy, to be ceded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 118.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 24, 1879.

HAVING an opportunity last night of speaking to the Emperor, I alluded to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to come to an agreement with him upon the steps that should be taken if the Russians did not evacuate the Turkish territory at the prescribed date.

His Majesty answered that from all the recent reports which had reached him, he could not now entertain a doubt of the determination of the Emperor of Russia to cause the Treaty to be loyally carried out.

I said that while fully concurring with His Majesty in this opinion, we had had so many examples of the Russian authorities acting in a manner intended to defeat what we were told were the Emperor's wishes, that it seemed desirable to come to an understanding as to what should be done if this were again to occur.

In that case, His Majesty said, it would be necessary for us to "parler très haut," but he did not believe that it would be requisite.

Upon my remarking to the Emperor that while in Bosnia and the Herzegovina he had been taking the most effectual method of preventing the recurrence of civil commotions by enforcing a general disarming of the populations, the Russians by distributing arms and drilling the Bulgarians had been openly preparing the way for insurrectionary movements, which might be the cause of serious difficulty. His Majesty replied that this was unfortunately true, and that measures would have to be taken to avert the danger that it might cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 24, 1879.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of this morning, I have the honour to inform you that Count Andrassy has not yet sent any answer to the Russian Circular of the 22nd January, and that he still hesitates in agreeing to the proposal contained in it till he sees reason for feeling some confidence that the Russian Government would abide by the decision of the majority, and that a settlement of the question would thus be arrived at.

M. Novikow, when pressed upon this point, says that a declaration by his Government, such as is required by Count Andrassy, would be equivalent to intimating to those who have already expressed themselves in a manner contrary to the wishes of Russia, that they need only adhere to their opinions in order to ensure their success, and he insists that it is only due to Russia that the line suggested by her Commissioner should receive the fair examination which he says has never hitherto been given to it.

Count Andrassy, on the other hand, not only denies that the Commissioners never examined the spot proposed for the bridge by the Russian Commissioner, but maintains that the Ambassadors, being evidently themselves incompetent to judge of the merits either of the Russian or of any other line, would have necessarily to be guided in their decision by the records found in the Protocols of the Commission.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 25, 1879.

M. ZWEDENICK informed his Government that he had declined to sign the Protocol offered to the foreign Delegates on the occasion of the opening of the Assembly at Tirnova on account of its being drawn up in the Russian language, so that he was ignorant of its precise contents.

He did not state whether his colleagues had signed or not, but his Government considered that he had acted with proper caution in withholding his signature from a document of the exact nature of which he was ignorant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 25, 1879.*

THE belief expressed in your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, that Baron Kallay is to a great degree responsible for the East Roumelian Commission having entered into such minute details, is fully shared by his own Government, by which he is looked upon as a good deal of a pedant and a "doctrinaire."

The extent to which he has indulged his tendencies has greatly dissatisfied Count Andrassy, but as his Government must have been kept informed of his proceedings throughout, I confess that they do not themselves appear to me to be free from responsibility for not having checked him in a course to the consequences of which they do not appear to have awakened till it is too late thoroughly to correct them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 26, 1879.*

SOME sensation was caused here by a telegram published in the Vienna newspapers, that in a speech at Tirnova Mr. Palgrave had spoken of Bulgaria as the youngest of the European States, at least, for the moment, and that this expression had been enthusiastically applauded by the East Roumelians who were present.

In reply to the many comments that I have heard made upon this utterance, I have simply remarked that a newspaper telegraphic summary is frequently inaccurate, but in no case must anything that may have fallen from Mr. Palgrave be taken as an indication, as pretended by some of the press, that Her Majesty's Government would not be indisposed to consent to a modification in favour of Bulgaria of the arrangements made by the Treaty of Berlin in regard to East Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 27, 1879.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 37 of the 21st ultimo, I addressed a note to Count Andrassy communicating to his Excellency the substance of your Lordship's instructions to Mr. White, and of Colonel Siborne's Report respecting the departure by the Roumanian Government from the Treaty arrangement by which Sulina was constituted a free port.

I have now received the inclosed answer, dated the 25th instant, from the Austrian-Hungarian Government, which, in acknowledging the receipt of my note, states that the Roumanian Government has declared that Sulina will continue to be a free port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Baron Schwegel to Sir H. Elliot.

(Translation.) *Vienna, February 25, 1879.*

THE undersigned had the honour to receive the note of His Excellency Sir H. Elliot, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, of the 3rd instant, on the subject

of the free port of Sulina. As the Government of the Prince of Roumania has, meanwhile, decided the question in the sense of the continuation of the freedom of the port of Sulina, the undersigned has the honour to confine himself simply to the acknowledgment of the receipt of his Excellency the British Ambassador's note, and avails, &c.

(For the Minister of Foreign Affairs),
(Signed) SCHWEGEL.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 3, 1879.*

THERE appears to be some difference of opinion upon the interpretation to be given to the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which lays down that the Russian occupation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia is fixed at nine months from the date of the ratifications, and that, within the further delay of three months, the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania and the complete evacuation of that Principality shall be completed.

The Austrian Government are of opinion that, according to this clause, the whole of the occupying army should have withdrawn from Bulgaria and East Roumelia by the 4th May, and your Lordship directed me to express the entire concurrence of Her Majesty's Government in the declaration of Count Andrassy of its being a point of honour that, after that date, not a Russian soldier should remain there.

It appears, however, from Sir Henry Layard's Report of General Todleben's language, that the Russian Government consider themselves only bound to commence the evacuation at the above-mentioned date, with, I presume, the obligation of completing it within three months more, as in the case of Roumania, and I should, therefore, be glad to be informed whether this circumstance makes any difference in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government of the interpretation to be given to the Article.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 265. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 5, 1879.*

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday of saying to M. Waddington that I still heard strange stories respecting the language and proceedings of M. Fournier and M. Ring with regard to the Governorship of Eastern Roumelia.

M. Waddington answered that he had recently repeated his instructions to those gentlemen on the subject.

He had, he said, informed them that the appointment of Rustom Pasha was desired by their Government, and must receive their own unqualified support.

He had moreover enjoined them neither to do nor say anything whatever in favour of the appointment of a European to the post.

M. Waddington said that he was anxious to see the appointment of Rustem Pasha settled definitively as soon as possible, and he begged me to suggest to your Lordship that Lord Dufferin might perhaps be able to obtain the assent of Russia, which alone was wanting in order to finish the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 126.

Memorandum communicated by Count Münster, March 6, 1879.

[Not for Blue Book.]

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)

THE Imperial Government understands Lord Salisbury's scruples, and has had them itself. The case, however, is by no means the same in Servia as it is in Roumania. In Servia, as a consequence of the Government's prompt initiative, a law has already been resolved upon, in accordance with the Berlin stipulations, and all it wants now is the formal confirmation of the Skupschina, of which, judging from the attitude of population and Government hitherto, there is no doubt; whilst the Roumanian Government, with manifest aversion to the Congress resolutions, has as yet scarcely taken any preparatory steps to carry out those resolutions, and is still seeking evasions.

In Servia there are no parties; Government and people are agreed upon the Jewish question; in Roumania, on the contrary, it is taken advantage of as a means of agitation by the party Chiefs, with whom the matter is of less concern than their separate interests. Continued pressure is therefore required unless the Treaty assurance of religious freedom in Roumania is to be given up; and the Imperial Government thinks that the recognition of Servia would be an excellent means of exercising such pressure, and would strengthen that very party at Bucharest which advocates a loyal execution of the Congress resolutions. For the Imperial Government there is the further consideration, that the systematic encroachments which German private interests in Roumanian experience on the part of the princely Government make it impossible, in face of public opinion, for our Government to make advances to the Roumanians on political ground.

To the foregoing observations the Imperial Government appends an expression of the hope and the earnest wish that Lord Salisbury may resolve to declare at once the recognition of Servia jointly with our Government, and without waiting for Roumania.

No. 127.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 4, 1879.*

I HAVE sent following telegram to Mr. Malet with reference to his telegram of the 3rd instant to your Lordship:—

"Count Castellane is a son of the late Marshal. He has been ruined by gambling, and is now Hirsch's agent here. He is negotiating with Prince Dondoukoff for further railway concessions, and, no doubt, looks to something of this kind in case Contouly is named.

"The latter has written, privately, a most extraordinary letter to M. Schmidt, throwing on him all responsibility in case he undertakes his tour to the district Treasuries. To-day, Russian Ambassador, Todleben, and Stolipine meet, to hold a conference at Adrianople. Tzeretelew was going there, but has given it up. Schepeleff told me last night that he thought we could finish our project by the beginning of April, and seems in great spirits. Meanwhile Contouly is trying to sow dissension between Kallay and myself. Stolipine told me yesterday that he had found Reouf Pasha to be a [? real] gentleman. He also said that Rustem Pasha was impossible as Governor. He warmly recommended to me Vernoni. The latter declared to me that nothing would induce him to accept office; but, as in the Financial project which he has elaborated, he has fixed the salary of the Governor-General at a very high figure: I do not fancy his resistance insurmountable. Of the two he would be the better.

"German Commissioner is indignant at the growing intimacy between French and Russians, and last night, in confidence, expressed himself to me with great bitterness on the subject.

"Everything tends indirectly to confirm your intelligence. Colonel Vitalis [?] is working hard with Schepeleff, Ring, and French Military Attaché on the subject of the militia and gendarmerie. Vitalis and French Military Attaché do not seem on the best

terms. Vitalis told me yesterday that the French Embassy had pressed for Borthwick's appointment, as they knew I wished for it."

No. 128.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

THE explanatory report demanded by the Sultan regarding territory which the Porte proposes to cede to Greece was only submitted to His Imperial Majesty on the 3rd instant.

His Imperial Majesty appears to wish to divest himself of the character of a free agent in the matter, as it is said he would prefer loss of more territory when it is forced upon him by Powers to having the responsibility of acting under the invitation recorded in Treaty.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 129.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE seen Abedin Effendi, late Turkish Commissioner, just returned from Prevesa, who was by way of asking what advice he should give his Government regarding rectifications. I told him to urge them to act immediately; that in Thessaly Porte must make up its mind to surrendering territory as far as the Peneus, but that if they were prompt and prudent they might very likely save a great part of Albania, including Janina. French Ambassador suggested to him a line from Arta going northward to the Peneus, and following that river to the sea. His Excellency had said that such a proposition drawn up at once and promptly would probably meet with the support of Europe. Am I to repeat to Athens my telegram on this subject.

No. 130.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

I AM anxious about Christian prisoners at Marash and Aleppo, some of whom are dead, and the rest in a deplorable condition. The instructions to Commissioners now named, which prescribe to them to draw up a scheme for the reform of Armenian provinces, require mature consideration, and will probably take a long time to prepare and pass Council. I desire to propose to the Porte that the Commission for Aleppo should start at once, and that its duties be limited to the trial of prisoners and the adoption of temporary measures requisite for the pacification of Zeitoun, and that the question of reorganization of the provinces should be submitted to the Special Commissions appointed under the system, which will be proposed in accordance with Article No. XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. May I do this? French Ambassador has been active on the subject of the prisoners, but he has failed as I have to obtain their release. He thinks my present proposal gives a chance of something being done for them before it is too late, and would support it.

No. 131.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

I TELEGRAPHED to Consul Henderson on the 5th instant as follows:—

"Vali of Aleppo has been dismissed. Grand Vizier states that the prisoners are accused of burning Ottoman authorities alive, and therefore he cannot release them. Have you heard of such an accusation?"

Following from Henderson in reply:—

"Accusation that the prisoners burnt Turkish authorities alive is absolutely false. My Italian and French colleagues authorize me to protest against such an unfounded accusation. Let the Grand Vizier give names and dates."

No. 132.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs instructs French Ambassador to adhere to line indicated by Powers, and to recommend cession of Janina. French Ambassador has, within the last few days, submitted a paper on the subject to the Sultan. In all probability this paper contains French Ambassador's views, and not those of his Government.

Abedin Bey—not Effendi, as I called him in my preceding telegram—has warned his Government that there is an active Austrian propaganda in Albania. This and similar reports from Macedonia account partly for the obstinacy of the Porte with regard to the Convention.

No. 133.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 6, 1879*

IN answer to a question in the Delegations, Count Andrassy declared it false to attribute to him an intention of occupying the Novi-Bazar Sandjak. Austria had by Treaty the right which cannot be abandoned, but the exercise of which did not [? be hurried] to hold garrison in certain places in that district which extends about a mile beyond Mitrovitza. It was for Austria a question not of duty but of right, of which the execution would be carried out in complete friendship with Turkey.

No. 134.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 6, 1879.*

IN answer to a question, Count Andrassy stated to the Delegation that though Russia had made representations on questions regarding the interpretation of the Berlin Treaty, such as questions of frontier, she had proposed no modifications of its provisions, and that such proposals, if made, would certainly be refused in all quarters.

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 152 of yesterday.

The Sultan is of course at liberty to nominate a European Governor if he pleases. But Her Majesty's Government advise him not to do so at present. It might be taken as admitting the principle that the Governor was always to be European. Moreover, he would have to choose from among the subjects of the smaller Powers, as those of any Signatory Power would not be tolerated by the rest. Of the smaller Powers Spain and Portugal are little better than Turkey; while Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and Belgium have no class of civil servants accustomed to the Government of alien populations. The project would, therefore, in practice be attended by insuperable difficulties. It is supposed to originate in the aspirations of M. Coutouly and Signor Vernoni.

No. 136.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I APPROVE your attendance at functions to commemorate anniversary of Emperor, reported in your telegram No. 79.

No. 137.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

IS it your impression that the Bill for the emancipation of the Jews will certainly pass the Greater Skuptchina?

Germany proposes to recognize on the faith of this certainty.

No. 138.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

WHAT is the exact position of the Jewish question?

Has any Bill been adopted by the Legislature preparatory to the sanction of the Greater Assembly as in Servia?

No. 139.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 285.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the *note verbale* which Sir H. Layard has addressed to the Porte with regard to the ill-treatment of Armenian Christians in the district of Zeitoun, copy of which is inclosed in his Excellency's despatch No. 145 of the 10th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 140.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 286.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 163, marked Secret, of the 19th ultimo, reporting what passed at your audience of the Sultan on the previous day. The observations which you addressed to His Majesty, as stated in that despatch, have the entire approval and concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 141.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 298. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 152 of yesterday's date, in which you report the observations made to you by the Grand Vizier as to the plan of nominating a European Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia.

The Sultan is, of course, at liberty to make such an appointment if he pleases, but, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would not be advisable that he should do so at present. The appointment might be taken as admitting the principle that the Governor was always to be a European. Moreover, the Governor would have to be selected from among the subjects of the smaller Powers, for it may be assumed that a subject of any one of the Signatory Powers would be strongly objected to by some or all of the others. Of the smaller Powers two—Spain and Portugal—have but little superiority over Turkey in the matter of administration, and would probably not come under discussion, while Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and Belgium have no class of civil servants accustomed to the government of alien populations. The project would, therefore, be attended in practice by insuperable difficulties.

There is some reason to suppose that the proposal originated in the aspirations of M. de Coutouly and Signor Vernoni.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 122.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 79 of yesterday's date, reporting your having attended the "Te Deum" and parade in celebration of the anniversary of the Emperor Alexander's accession. I have signified to you my approval of your presence on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 143.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I UNDERSTAND that Germany, acting on the belief that no reasonable doubt can be now entertained that Servia is determined to carry out the portion of the Treaty of Berlin which affects the Jews, proposes to proceed to the full and complete recognition of the independence of Servia.

I request, therefore, that you will report to me at once whether in your opinion the Greater Skuptchina may be relied upon to pass the Bill for the emancipation of the Jews.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 144.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1879.*

I REQUEST that you will furnish me with a report showing the exact position of the question relating to the Jews in Roumania, and whether the Legislative Chambers have passed any measure preparatory to the Convocation of Chambers *ad hoc* in order to amend Article 7 of the Constitution, as has been done in Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 145.

Colonel Siborne, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Thames Ditton, March 6, 1879.*

IN my letter to your Lordship No. 3 of the 9th January last I had the honour to suggest that the proposal of my French colleague for the payment of the debt of the Danube Commission to the Porte should be taken into first consideration as the most expedient means of promptly securing a sum of ready money to the Ottoman Government, and of, at the same time, considerably diminishing our own liabilities.

M. Herbette's proposition has been forwarded for the consideration of the Porte by the French Government.

As yet no reply has been received, as I had hoped would have been the case before my leaving England, but in the event of its being favourably entertained by the Turkish Government, and consequently submitted by M. Herbette at the next General Meeting of the Commission, I beg to give the following general outline of its provisions, and to request that I may be authorized to support them.

M. Herbette proposes the total reimbursement of the Turkish Loan, discounted at 6 per cent. of its actual value on the 1st July, 1879.

The present debt amounts to 176,000*l.*, and he calculates that, taking into account the periods of its obligatory repayment by half-yearly annuities, commencing in 1883, the Porte might accept a sum of about 150,000*l.*

This sum should be met partly by the actual assets of the Commission, retaining 1,000,000 fr., or 40,000*l.*, as a reserve fund, and partly by a new loan.

The assets of the Commission now amount to about 118,000*l.*, deducting from which 40,000*l.*, would leave 78,000*l.* to pay to the Porte, the remainder of the debt, or 72,000*l.*, to be covered by the new loan.

He also proposes to unify this loan with the existing London Loan, or debt to Bischoffsheim and Goldschmidt, either by obtaining terms from that house or from some other bank.

The London Loan stands now at 55,700*l.*, which, with the aforesaid 72,000*l.*, would make a total indebtedness of 127,700*l.*

This unified debt to be contracted on such terms that the difference between its yearly reimbursements and those now paid in defrayment of the London Loan will admit of a reduction of 50 c. per ton, or of about 18½ per cent. on the dues paid by the shipping.

The guarantees for the new loan are to be—

1. For the portion of it, 55,700*l.*, forming the present London Loan, the existing guarantees of the Powers, and the lien on the receipts of the Commission, less 16,000*l.*, which may be retained for current expenses.

2. For the remaining portion, 72,000*l.*, all the receipts and assets of the Commission, less the 1,000,000 fr., or 40,000*l.*, to be retained in reserve, the Commission being meantime in no way restricted from employing such receipts or assets to any degree it may judge necessary for its administration, or for the execution of the works.

Lastly, the Commission is to retain the power of payments in advance of the stipulated annuities, thereby diminishing the balances of both capital and interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

No. 146.

M. Frère-Orban to Baron Solvyns.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Baron Solvyns, March 7.)

M. le Baron, *Bruxelles, le 5 Mars, 1879.*

LES principes du droit des gens autorisent la reconnaissance des Gouvernements de fait.

Notre règle de conduite constante a cependant été de ne reconnaître les nouveaux Gouvernements que lorsque la majorité des Grandes Puissances nous en avait donné l'exemple.

L'Autriche et la Russie sont, depuis plusieurs mois, entrées en relations officielles avec la Roumanie Indépendante.

L'Allemagne, la Russie, la Grande Bretagne, et l'Italie paraissent, au contraire, s'être entendues pour ne pas recevoir les lettres de créance des Ministres Roumains avant le réglement de la question Juive.

Conformément à de nombreux précédents nous avons décliné jusqu'à présent la visite de M. Catardji, Agent de la Roumanie à Paris, qui est chargé de nous notifier l'indépendance de son pays.

Mais les instances du Gouvernement Roumain deviennent de plus en plus pressantes, et les intérêts de notre commerce et de notre industrie pourraient se ressentir d'un refus prolongé davantage.

Le Traité de Berlin en proclamant l'indépendance de la Roumanie l'a rattachée à certaines conditions qui touchent à son organisation intérieure.

Le Gouvernment du Roi apprécie les motifs qui ont dicté cette réserve aux Hautes Parties Contractantes; il ne peut cependant s'empêcher d'y voir une immixtion dans un domaine qui est du ressort exclusif de la souveraineté.

Nous avons eu nous-mêmes à diverses époques à redouter la pression d'Etats voisins qui auraient voulu réclamer des modifications soit dans nos lois, soit dans notre Constitution.

Pouvons-nous indéfiniment repousser un Etat dont l'entière souveraineté est établie en fait mais qui n'a pas encore accommodé sa Constitution aux exigences de plusieurs des Grandes Puissances.

Le jeu n'est pas sans danger pour les petits Etats; il pourrait, un jour, être retourné contre nous.

Je vous prie de communiquer ces réflexions au Chef du Foreign Office et de me faire part des observations qu'elles lui suggéreraient.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) FRÈRE-ORBAN.

No. 147.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *March* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a telegram which I have received from M. Delyanni, and which relates to the fictitious agitation fomented by the Turkish authorities in Epirus, while the negotiations of the Commissioners are kept in suspense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 147.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le* 5 *Mars*, 1879.

UNE nouvelle pétition, rédigée en quatre exemplaires à l'adresse des Ministres des Affaires Etrangères de l'Angleterre, l'Autriche, la France, et l'Italie, a été remise le 2 de ce mois à leur Représentants respectifs à Prévésa par une Commission composée d'Albanais, parmi lesquels figurent quelques uns de Prévésa. Par cette pétition les Albanais signataires protestent contre l'annexion de leur pays à la Grèce, en prévenant les Puissances qu'ils se décideraient d'y opposer une résistance armée. Toutes ces pétitions sont dictées par les autorités Ottomanes, à la volonté desquelles il devient difficile, même aux Musulmans, d'opposer un refus. Par des pareils moyens on pense influencer la décision de l'Europe. Ils ont conçu dernièrement à Prévésa l'idée de préparer des pétitions pareilles de la part aussi des Chrétiens habitants de l'Epire, et ils se mirent immédiatement à l'œuvre, en appelant à Prévésa les Chrétiens habitants de Parga, Margariti, et Paramythia. Il n'est pas du tout improbable qu'ils obtiennent des signatures des Chrétiens. Quand les Musulmans ne peuvent pas opposer un refus, par plus forte raison les Chrétiens ne peuvent que céder en signant. Les autorités Turques de Prévésa croient de la sorte qu'il leur est possible de démontrer que les Chrétiens même repugnent l'annexion de leur pays à la Grèce en préférant le joug Ottoman. Telle est la voie que le Gouvernement Turc a préféré au lieu de continuer les négociations sur la rectification des

frontières, d'après la décision de l'Europe. Nous ne doutons pas que les Puissances, auxquelles les pétitions susmentionnées seront parvenues, apprécieront la valeur de pareille menées.

No. 148.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *March* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a telegram just received from his Excellency M. Delyanni, with orders to communicate its contents to your Lordship, and which relates to certain communications said to have been made by the Porte on the authority of one of its obscure functionaries in an outlying township, who, nevertheless, claims to possess very circumstantial information as to the present and future intentions of the Hellenic Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 148.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le* 6 *Mars*, 1879.

J'APPRENDS de bonne source que la Porte a communiqué aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople un télégramme du Gouverneur de Tricala, dont voici à peu près le résumé:—

Le Gouverneur de Larisse et le Sous-Gouverneur de Pharsale m'informent que les Délégués Hellènes prévoyant l'impossibilité d'une entente selon désir, le Cabinet d'Athènes a réuni secrètement les Chefs des insurgées et a appelé sous les armes les réserves et une armée territoriale. Les bandes insurgées seront expédiées sûrement à l'Olympe et à Katérina. Le Gouvernement Hellénique aurait adoptée les mesures de quarantaine dans le but unique de voiler ses préparatifs. Des mesures en conséquence sont prises par les autorités Turques.

Le contenu du télégramme précité est complétement dénué de fondement. Le Gouvernement n'a appelé sous les armes ni réserves ni armée territoriale; l'armée Hellénique n'a pas même atteint le chiffre voté par la Chambre avant sa séparation. Aucune bande n'a été expédiée de Grèce à Thessalie. Les insurgés anciens non amnistiés et les habitants des villages détruits en Epire et Thessalie restent encore à Corfu, Lamie, et Acarnanie, entretenus aux frais du Gouvernement. Si quelques uns ont voulu regagner fortuitement les foyers, le Gouvernement n'en sait rien. Quant à la quarantaine, cette mesure n'a été prise par le Gouvernement Royal qu'après la quarantaine appliquée par le Gouvernement Italien aux provenances Helléniques, et elle avait le seul but de prévenir l'isolement de la Grèce et l'interruption des communications entre elle et les ports de l'Occident.

No. 149.

Mr. Thompson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 7.)

(Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Pall Mall, March* 7, 1879.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying Memorandum by Major Ardagh on the subject of the Balkan frontier.

I am to add that it is understood there has been a Russian Circular Note on this subject, but it has not yet reached the Intelligence Department of this Office, in which the inclosed Memorandum has been written for some little time, and is in no way a critique upon the Russian views on the subject, whatever they may be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Memorandum respecting the Delimitation of the Frontier of Bulgaria.

Intelligence Branch, Quartermaster-General's Department,
(Secret and Confidential.) *March* 1, 1879.

BY the 13th and last Protocol of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission held at Pera on the 17th December, 1878, the meeting was adjourned until the 15th April, 1879.

The delimitation of the Dobrudscha frontier from Silistria to Mangalia had then, as far as the Commission was concerned, been disposed of.

On its reassembly, the attention of the Commission will be devoted to the demarcation of the southern frontier of Bulgaria, which is contiguous with Eastern Roumelia from the Black Sea to the Rhodope range; and with the Ottoman Empire proper, from the Rhodope to the new Servian frontier on the Babina Poljana. From this point the Principalities of Bulgaria and Servia are contiguous as far as the Danube; and, by an understanding already arrived at between the Bulgarian and Servian Boundary Commissions, with the approval of the Signatory Powers, the delimitation of this frontier is to be executed by the Servian Commission, subject to the formal approval of the Bulgarian Commission, in order to comply exactly with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

That portion of the new frontier extending from the Black Sea to the confines of Servia remains, therefore, to be executed by the Bulgarian Commission. This line, about 330 miles in length, follows, for the most part, the summits of the Balkan and other high ranges, where the actual process of delimitation will necessarily be more laborious and slow than in a less elevated country. Nearly the whole of this frontier is, moreover, affected by military considerations, and 160 miles of it—from the valley of the Deli-Kamtchik to the summit of the Balkan, over Slatitza—is specially subject to the condition specified by the IInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, viz.:—

"Que cette Commission Européenne prendra en considération la nécessité pour Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de pouvoir défendre les frontières du Balkan de la Roumélie Orientale."

The interpretation of this instruction will engage the attention of the Commission from the moment that the line of the Balkan comes under consideration, and it cannot be foreseen how the votes of the neutral Powers may be cast. The probable course of events, in the case of no further preliminary understanding being arrived at, will be as follows:—

England and Turkey will propose a frontier-line in conformity with their interpretation of the Treaty. Russia will claim the line of watershed. The Commission may, under the most favourable hypothesis (supposing that the same happy unanimity which characterized the proceedings of the majority in their consideration of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier should continue to exist), carry the English proposal, or some satisfactory modification of it, by a large majority. The Russian Commissioner will thereupon decline to sign the Award, and the question will be again referred to the Powers for decision. Meanwhile long discussions and correspondence, necessarily productive of delay, will have arisen.

A further difficulty must also be foreseen. The actual work of delimitation in the field will commence at about the period fixed for the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia by the Russians. In the existing condition of these countries, an escort for the Commission, and orderlies for detached officers, will be indispensable. By whom are these to be furnished?

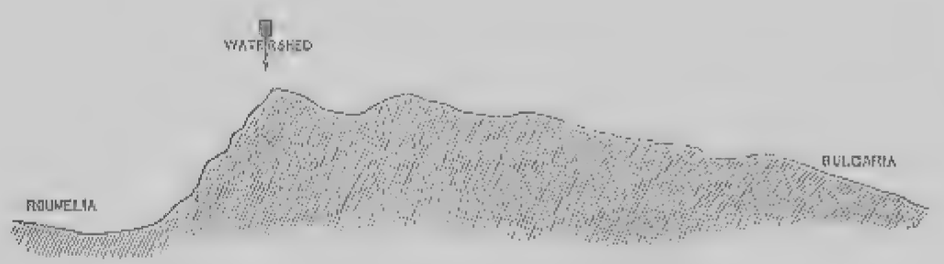
It would seem desirable to endeavour to avert the delays and difficulties which will surely attend the proceedings of the Commission, if they meet again without more definite instructions, by a preliminary exchange of opinions between the Powers, and by a concurrence of the majority in some definite equitable solution of the main points in dispute, which should be communicated to their respective Commissioners in the form of an instruction, previous to the reassembly of the Commission.

The details of the Balkan frontier were discussed at considerable length by the experts at Berlin, the British proposal being a line not less than 5 kilom. in front of the crest. There is reason to believe that a slight modification of this proposition would have met with the support of the majority, but, in the absence of the British Representatives, the conditional clause at the end of the IInd Article of the Treaty, already cited, was carried, and it remains to interpret its meaning.

Lord Beaconsfield defines it as "a real frontier." The Russians claim the crest line or watershed; we claimed 5 kilom. or more beyond it, and the solution must lie between these two extremes.

It hardly admits of any dispute that the intention of Congress was that the Turks should have the right of occupying the top of the range in general terms. If the watershed, pure and simple, had been meant, no saving clause would have been needed, and the definition "ligne de partage des eaux," which is exact and incapable of being misconstrued, would have been used as in other parts of the description. Three other words, viz., "crête," "chaîne principale," and "sommet," are, however, employed here—words of a certain vagueness adapted to the case. It would be an absurdity to speak of a military occupation of such an abstract mathematical conception as the line of parting of the waters, whereas the occupation of a crest, a chain, or a summit implies a certain area or space in the vicinity of the highest points, and, if used in a military sense, obviously means that the extension shall be in a direction favourable to the occupant, as against his enemy. It almost savours of flippancy to observe that two parties cannot occupy the summit of a mountain at the same time, and yet this is virtually what the Russians contend for. They desire to place the Ottoman and Bulgarian forces face to face along the watershed. But, apart from the logical inconsistency of this pretension, there are, in the case of the Balkans, special peculiarities in the formation of the ground which render the possibility of defence from the south as against the north far more difficult to ensure than under a reverse hypothesis.

In the very words of Count Moltke, written forty years ago, "the southern slope is by far the steepest, the northern presents a far less imposing aspect, inasmuch as it is masked by a series of descending spurs."



GENERAL SECTION OF BALKANS.

I have personally seen above 200 miles in length of this range, and all of the character described by Moltke, and represented in the sketch which is inserted above. Von Moltke further says:—

(Russisch-Turkische Feldzug, p. 53)—"The impassability of the Balkan itself, apart from the tradition of centuries, depends far more upon the crowds of minor difficulties massed together in a width of from three to six marches, which have gradually to be overcome by the troops on their crossing, and on the small number and wretched state of the roads leading over the mountains, than on the absolute height or impracticability of their features."

This also I can corroborate from personal experience, and, in order to illustrate how completely the obstacles presented by the Balkans are of this character, no better instance can be given than the recent operations on the Shipka Pass, where the Russians, having once driven the Turks over the watershed, occupied an almost impregnable position overlooking and commanding the plains of Roumelia, where the army of Suleiman was compelled to remain many thousand feet below, and was ultimately driven to surrender.

It might, indeed, be reasonably contended that, in order to render the line of the Balkan an efficient defence, the whole breadth of the range of mountains, with *débouchés* into the plain of the Danube, should be conferred on Turkey; but the British propositions, being limited to the minimum requisites, were extremely moderate, and were based on the following principles, which, it is submitted, should still be adhered to:—

The frontier should be so drawn as to comprise within the limits of Eastern Roumelia—

1. All such sites and positions as may be requisite, from a military point of view, for the active or passive defence of the passes, roads, paths, tracks, or other accesses affording a passage over the range.

2. A zone or rayon around such sites and positions of sufficient extent to insure them a clear field of fire for artillery as well as small arms, and secure the troops and fortifications placed thereon from molestation and annoyance by hostile proceedings beyond the frontier.

In general terms this means drawing the frontier at cannon-shot beyond the crest;

but inasmuch as in some instances a good site or position may not present itself in the immediate vicinity of the watershed, it may in such cases be requisite to advance beyond, preserving, *pari passu*, the necessary rayon.

There are, however, other considerations of a special character which demand attention, viz.:—

1. How far the ethnological affinity of the Bulgarian populations on either side of the Balkan may render a defence of that frontier by Turkish troops difficult or impracticable.

2. The influence of Russian intrigue among the armed forces of Eastern Roumelia in the same direction.

3. The negligence, procrastination, and corruption of Turkish administration, which may nullify or render inoperative any means of defence wherewith they may have been endowed by the Powers.

4. The financial disability of the Ottoman Government to take any measures requiring the outlay of considerable sums of money in fortifications or barracks; the Sultan being debarred by Article XV of the Treaty of Berlin from quartering troops on the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia.

5. A strategical consideration of the best plan of operations for the Turks in a future war, whether with or without allies; and the relative importance of the various portions of the frontier in a military point of view with regard to such operations.

6. The actual method of surveying and laying down the boundary-line.

The first four considerations are political and speculative in their character, and it would serve no purpose to discuss the questions of fact further than to point out that if they are true to an extreme, it might be a work of supererogation to contest the frontier-line at all at the present time, were it not that the influences alluded to are manifestly ephemeral in their nature, and subject to modification and change in the course of time.

With respect to the fifth paragraph, it would appear that England and Austria are the Powers most interested—the former in connection with operations directed against Constantinople and Gallipoli, and the latter in view of movements on the Salonica-Mitrovitza line, the eventual occupation of which in certain contingencies has, no doubt, been contemplated by that Power.

Although the extension of Servia and Bulgaria to the southward affords a direct and easy line to a Slav Power for menacing any portion of the country between Bosnia and Salonica, it is not improbable that Russia, in a future war, may again select the vicinity of the Shipka Pass for crossing the Balkans, in order to avoid too close a contiguity with the Austrian forces; and it would at least be desirable that this view should be entertained by the Austrian Government, in order to gain the active support of that Power for proposals tending to strengthen the Balkan frontier, with which otherwise she can have but little interest, except inasmuch as they form a barrier to Russian progress.

Reverting to the possibility of English military operations in European Turkey, and setting aside the mere passive defence of Constantinople and Gallipoli, the probable base of our operations would be a harbour on the Black Sea coast: Bourgas, Varna, or Kustendji, the first of which only will be in Turkish hands. The best, and indeed the indispensable line of conduct for the Porte, will be to establish entrenched camps at Adrianople and Bourgas as their base of operations, and to seize and fortify Varna at the outbreak of hostilities. Leaving more northern ports out of consideration as having no relation to the Balkan, the possibility remains that we may be engaged in operations based on Varna and Bourgas, and extending along the Eastern Balkans, perhaps as far as the Trojan Pass. This sufficiently displays the interest we have in the matter, and it would be out of place to go into further detail. Not only will it be desirable, therefore, to give to the Turks every possible advantage in the delimitation of the frontier, but care should be taken to procure as much topographical information as possible about the country during this very favourable opportunity. How this should be done may be more appropriately treated of in dealing with the sixth paragraph.

In the delimitation of the Roumano-Bulgarian boundary great inconvenience arose from the absence of a proper survey, and from the very hasty manner in which the ground was sketched. Colonel Home and Colonel Bogoliubow both insisted strongly on the necessity for a more complete operation, but were outvoted by the other five Commissioners. Finally, the practical execution of the work fell on the English, Russian, Turkish, and Roumanian adjoints; no assistance whatever being rendered by the German, Austrian, French, or Italian Commissioners. Possibly one or more of the latter may be induced to lend their aid in the ensuing season, but in any case the whole of the line should be surveyed with at least a moderate degree of accuracy, and in a systematic manner. The best course to adopt will be to subdivide the frontier into sections among the different parties assisting, and, for obvious reasons, it will be preferable for the English

to take the tract near the sea. A survey made by officers of one nationality will proceed more rapidly and with greater accuracy than a compilation based on polyglot sketches, such as that of the Dobrudscha frontier.

As the period fixed for the reassembly of the Commission approaches, an early reconstitution of the British portion of it is desirable.

(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH, *Major, D.A.Q.M.G.*

No. 150.

Mr. Thompson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 7.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Pall Mall, March 7, 1879.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, transmitting copy of a communication from Count Schouvaloff on the subject of the difficulty which has arisen between Russia and Roumania with regard to the delimitation of the new frontier-line under the Treaty of Berlin, and, in reply, to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying Memorandum, drawn up in the Intelligence Department of this Office, with a map.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Memorandum respecting the Dobrudscha Frontier.

WITH reference to Count Schouvaloff's letter of the 10th February, inclosing a letter and a circular of Prince Gortchacow's, relative to the delimitation of the frontier between Silistria and Mangalia, in which the Prince proposes the provisional occupation by the Roumanian troops of a line commencing on the Danube, opposite the piquet of Dervend, 18 kilom. (12 miles) below Silistria, and passing through the villages of Galitza, Girlitza, and Esenkeui; and the further proposal to adopt the Lake of Girlitza as the point of departure of the new frontier, I beg to submit the following observations:—

1. It is exceedingly undesirable to afford a precedent for setting aside a decision arrived at by an International Commission, particularly in a case where the majorities were uniformly so large as six to one. This step of the Russian Chancellor is analogous to a test action, and if any sign of yielding be manifested by the Powers, it may be foreseen that no decision of this or any other Commission under the Treaty of Berlin, which is opposed to the Russian policy, will remain uncontested.

2. The line along the Lake of Girlitza, to which it is proposed that the Roumanian troops should withdraw, will be inconvenient to that country from a military, a commercial, and an economic point of view, for the following reasons:—

An inspection of the map attached will show that the Dobrudscha is separated from Wallachia not only by the Danube itself, but by another navigable channel called the Borcha River, which flows along the Roumanian shore, and incloses between itself and the Danube a very long and large island called Balta, low and subject to annual inundations, but having no navigable channels connecting the main streams.

In the absence of a bridge, all communication between Wallachia and the Southern Dobrudscha has, therefore, to be carried on from Kalarash, where the Borcha Channel branches off from the Danube, and the most convenient point then to land upon on the southern bank is at or close to Silistria itself. The selection of any other point further down the river will increase the length of the traject from Kalarash, by the distance of that point from Silistria; and by going as far as Girlitza, the communication would, when the Danube is in flood or ice-bound, be rendered exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

3. The compromise of the boundary question suggested by Prince Gortchacow is objectionable—not only from the reason already cited with reference to the temporary occupation, but also from its depriving Roumania of the only suitable site for a bridge to connect the two banks of the Danube.

The site at Dekitcheni proposed by the Russian Commissioner met with no other advocate, and it would, indeed, be preposterous to expect the Roumanians to entertain the idea of constructing a bridge of a very costly nature, 5 kilom. in length, across the valley of the Danube at a point which has not the slightest economical importance. There is a general concurrence of opinion on the part of all eminent authorities who have studied the subject, that the proper point for a bridge lies between Kalarash and Silistria.

4. As there are certain important inaccuracies, both in statement and deduction, in Prince Gortchacow's Circular of the 22nd January, it is desirable again to review the antecedents of this question.

At the Congress of Berlin, the Roumanian Delegates, besides urging that the retrocession of Bessarabia was a material injury to their country, a cause of profound grief to their nation, a violation of faith on the part of Russia, and a blow at the binding character of Treaties, further brought to the notice of the Powers their serious losses during the war, both in life, property, and money.

Considering that the compensation offered by the Treaty of San Stefano was inadequate, M. Waddington proposed an extension of the territory to be ceded to Roumania in the Dobrudscha, which should include Silistria and Mangalia. The Representatives of all the other Powers except Russia joined in supporting the proposition.

It is to be observed that the object was to increase a compensation which was considered to be an inadequate equivalent. So far from the ethnographical question figuring in the first line, as represented by Prince Gortchacow, Count Schouvaloff alone alluded to it, and seems to have seized upon it as a pretext for yielding.

Subsequently (Protocol 15), when the text describing the line as commencing to the east of Silistria was laid before the Congress by Prince Hohenlohe, it was stated by the Prince that the Delimitation Commission had indicated that the point of departure should be at the site where a bridge could be established between the two Roumanian banks of the Danube. Count Schouvaloff admitted that a bridge was necessary (Protocol 15), and Baron Haymerle added that there was only one suitable point in the environs of Silistria (obviously meaning that ultimately fixed upon by the European Commission). Prince Bismarck, then, in putting the question to the vote, describes it as "la ligne de Silistrie à Mangalia," and in those terms it received the assent of the Plenipotentiaries. There can, therefore, be no doubt that the intention of Congress was that the modified frontier—though not to include Silistria—was to commence at a point in its environs, so as to admit of the construction of the bridge alluded to by Baron Haymerle.

The Circular next treats of the proceedings of the International Commission, giving what purports to be an extract from the 1st Protocol, but with an omission which entirely changes the sense of their decision. The original Protocol reads as follows :—

"La Commission décide de prendre toutes ses décisions à la majorité des voix. Le vote de la minorité sera inséré au Protocole avec l'exposé des motifs, *mais ne pourra pas entraver la marche des affaires* et laisser en suspens la question agitée. La décision prise à la majorité des voix reste acquise à la Commission."

The paragraph underlined* is omitted in Prince Gortchacow's Circular, with the effect of making it appear that it had been agreed to leave all disputed points in suspense, whereas the object was precisely the reverse.

The Prince then states, with reference to the selection of the site for a bridge, that no desire was evinced to ascertain if there were not other sites, more distant from the town of Silistria, quite as suitable for the construction of a bridge as that selected. The Commission, however, went down the river as far as Dekitchemi, the point selected by the Russian Delegate, with a special view to examine into the relative merits of different points, and the discussion recorded in the Protocols covers twenty pages of printed matter, so the question was not settled until after the fullest consideration.

The position of the bridge having been decided upon, it was indispensable to provide a *débouché* suitable for the formation of a proper approach, and an inspection of the map will show that the limits assigned by the Commission will not admit of any material curtailment in the neighbourhood of the town.

With regard to Prince Gortchacow's objection to the separation of certain vineyards and land belonging to the town of Silistria from the residence of their proprietors, it may be observed that such a state of affairs is not very unusual, and appears to give rise to no more practical inconvenience than an ordinary octroi barrier.

5. The regrettable incident relative to Arab-Tabia having been settled for the present, seems to call for no expression of opinion.

6. As the Russian Chancellor absolutely refuses to be bound by a majority of Delegates, it would appear useless to submit these questions to a new International Commission. The choice between the remaining alternatives rests with Her Majesty's Government, but it might be deemed advisable to accept neither, and abide by the recommendations already made.

(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH, *Major, D.A.Q.M.G.*

Adair House, March 3, 1879.

* Printed in italics.

No. 151.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED to Count Andrassy last night your Lordship's telegram of the 4th respecting period at which Russian evacuation should be completed. He said that the words of the Treaty seemed to him so clearly to intimate that it was to be concluded by the 3rd of May, that he had not been aware of any Government taking a different view.

He would reflect on your Lordship's opinion on the question, and would consult the Emperor before saying more than that he does not at present think the Treaty would be complied with if the evacuation only commenced on the 3rd of May, by which date he considers that it ought to be at least in the main already carried out.

No. 152.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

I HAD a conversation with Count Andrassy last night about Novi-Bazar Convention and the four points mentioned by Mr. Malet :—

1. He agreed to recognize sovereignty of the Sultan in the terms wished by the Porte, provided that the rest of what was called the rectified project agreed to by Carathéodory Pasha at Vienna is adhered to.

2. He will not hear of the word—temporary.

3. He does not object to Bosnians and Herzegovinians being generally treated as Ottoman subjects out of their provinces, but this must form subject of separate arrangements, as it involves many details which could not be brought into the Convention.

4. Strength of garrisons and points to be occupied cannot be fixed by Convention, as both must depend on necessities that may arise. At present it is only proposed to send garrisons to three points near north "Enclave," and certainly not to Mitrovitza, Novi-Bazar or Berani; but Austria cannot abandon right of garrison in any part of the district in which it was given her by the Treaty of Berlin in the event of aggression by Servia or Montenegro. The Convention would stipulate that wherever there were Austrian troops the Porte might maintain a force equal to it in strength, and in every other respect.

If the Convention is signed, the Austrian force in Bosnia and the Herzegovina will be at once reduced by nearly one-half, and, as it was explained to me by Count Andrassy, it does not appear to contain anything in excess of what is justified under the Berlin Treaty. His Excellency hopes your Lordship will strongly urge its acceptance on the Porte.

No. 153.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Government have invited Count Andrassy to consent that the southern boundary of Bulgaria shall not run along crest of the Balkans, but shall give the Principality some slopes, and ensure it a proper defence against attack from Turkey. He intends to give a categorical refusal to a proposal implying modification of Treaty, which declared the crest to be the boundary, and he will insist that the Commissioners must decide details by a majority on the basis of the Treaty.

He strongly resents an insinuation in the despatch that Powers acted at Berlin without calmness or impartiality.

If a similar communication has been made to Her Majesty's Government, he would be glad to know your Lordship's opinion upon it.

No. 154.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has communicated to Count Andrassy a despatch from his Government, urging the necessity of an unanimous agreement upon the frontier question near Silistria.

Count Andrassy says, that as no mode is indicated for arriving at this unanimity, he supposes the Russian Government to mean that the six Powers shall defer to the view of one, and he is only confirmed in the opinion that it is only by accepting the principle of a majority that this and similar questions can be settled.

He points out that even at Berlin it was found necessary to decide by a majority a question of frontier on which England and Russia could not agree.

No. 155.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 7, 1879.*

INCURSION of Greeks into Epirus or Thessaly reported from Constantinople is positively denied here to be true. Epirote and Thessalian Committees at Athens declare they have no part in movement reported, which is suspected to have been fabricated by the Porte for the sake of complicating affairs with Greece, and delaying settlement of frontier question. Copy sent to Constantinople.

No. 156.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Jewish question is at length assuming shape and making some progress. Preparatory for required change of Constitution by a Special Assembly, a resolution to that effect has been read for the first time in both Chambers and well received. It is being discussed now, and it is certain to be voted by considerable majorities—probably to-morrow.

The third and last reading has been irrevocably fixed for the 3rd April next. When that has been done, position of question will be exactly similar to what it is in Servia at this moment.

No. 157.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March 7, 1879.*

MY impression throughout has been that the emancipation of Jews in Servia never has been open to serious doubt, the only fear I have had being that the Government might possibly delay convoking the great National Assembly from political and other considerations foreign to the question.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has formally assured me that the emancipation will be an accomplished fact before the end of the year, not being yet in a position to fix a precise date; but I have reason to believe it will be settled early next summer.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879, 3 P.M.*

I APPROVE your action as proposed in your telegram No. 157 of yesterday.

No. 159.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879, 3·20 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 156 of yesterday, as a rule, do not repeat your telegrams to Athens unless you see urgent cause.

Her Majesty's Government have informed French and Greek Governments that they are unable to recommend to the Porte to cede Janina. You may state this to the Sultan.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879, 5·30 P.M.*

SCHOUVALOFF takes leave of me to-morrow afternoon, and my language to him will depend on the tenour of your communications.

Can you form any judgment of the state of mind of the Imperial authorities? Please answer at once.

No. 161.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879.*

I HAVE read with much interest your despatch No. 60, marked Confidential, of the 8th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of the energy and perseverance you have shown in your endeavours to bring about an understanding for expediting the business of the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 162.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 305.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879.*

I HAVE signified to you by telegraph my approval of the suggestions you propose to offer to the Porte, contained in your telegram No. 157 of yesterday, with a view to affording immediate relief to the Christian prisoners at Marash and Aleppo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 163.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 307.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879.*

THE Greek Government, as you are aware, are extremely desirous that, in rectifying the existing frontier between Turkey and Greece, the town of Janina should be ceded to the Hellenic Kingdom, and the French Government seemed disposed to support the proposal.

You are authorized to state to the Sultan, whenever you may have an opportunity of making the communication to His Majesty, that I have informed both the French and the Greek Governments that Her Majesty's Government are unable to recommend the Porte to agree to the cession of Janina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 164.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 140.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 7, 1879.*

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 113 of the 26th ultimo, respecting the reports in the Vienna newspapers as to the expressions attributed to Mr. Palgrave in his speech at Tirnova.

You will have learnt from Mr. Palgrave's telegram of the 28th ultimo, copy of which has been sent to you, that he states that he merely congratulated the Assembly, exhorted them to give their whole attention to the elaboration of the Organic Law, and promised them the sympathy and support of Europe if they adopted that course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 37. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that before leaving for Cettingé to present my letter of credence I called on Kiamil Pasha, and his Excellency begged me to endeavour to ascertain from Prince Nicholas, if possible, in a casual manner, whether His Highness would be disposed to accept some other portion of territory, the Kucka-Krajna for instance, instead of Goussinié and the adjoining district.

I told Kiamil Pasha that I thought it would be useless to make the inquiry, as I had reason to believe great importance had been placed by the Austrian military authorities on the possession by Albania of the Kucka-Krajna as a strategical position, and that, in fact, its retention had been insisted upon at Berlin, although it had been admitted that the inhabitants of the district are Montenegrins.

I suggested to the Imperial Commissioner that he should first ascertain the opinion of the Turkish staff officers on the frontier-line value of the Kucka-Krajna, and then, if they considered it unimportant, views might be exchanged with the Austrian Government.

At Cettingé Prince Nicholas spontaneously asked me whether I did not think that some arrangement might be come to with the Porte, by which the difficulty of the delivery of Goussinié could be surmounted. His Highness said that he had no intention to lose a single life in acquiring Goussinié, but that if compensation of some kind was not offered, he would insist on the Turks putting him in possession of every inch of territory granted to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin.

I admitted to the Prince that I was under the impression that Kiamil Pasha was not indisposed to a "transaction," but, I added, I was of opinion that the question was not at all one which merely concerned Turkey and Montenegro, and that it would be useless for the two Governments to enter into negotiations upon it without first knowing what other Governments interested in these regions thought.

Kiamil Pasha has since told me that the Turkish Generals whom he has consulted attach no great importance to the possession of the Kucka-Krajna, and that he has written to Constantinople to ascertain whether the contemplated modifications may be proposed to Montenegro.

If the Austrian Government continues to share the opinion of its Representatives in the Boundary Committee of the Berlin Congress, whatever may be the wishes of Turkey and Montenegro, the Treaty delimitation of the frontiers will have to be maintained; and I admit, from the few words dropped to me on this subject by Prince Nicholas, that it would be more prudent not to allow the appearance of even the semblance of a corrosive spot on the Treaty stipulations.

The Prince's allusions to the necessity of a defensive line for his new possessions, and sense of insecurity which will cramp development at Podgoritza as long as Pod Hum remains in Turkish hands, ought, I am convinced, to be disregarded; and I trust your Lordship will not disapprove my having ventured to hint to His Highness that fears of Turkey ought not to hinder the legitimate progress of his Principality,

as there is no probability of Turkey again attacking Montenegro as long as the latter accepts its present boundaries as really the final limit to its growth.

Although the general opinion here is that Goussinié cannot be surrendered without resistance on the part of the natives, I understand that Colonel Osman Bey, the officer who has effected the evacuation of Spuz and Podgoritza in a most masterly manner, has expressed himself prepared, if ordered by his Government, to give up Goussinié to the Montenegrins without any difficulty.

I have had the advantage of watching the conduct of Osman Bey during the insurrections and wars of the past three years, and I certainly consider him one of a very few officers in the Turkish army. He is of undoubted personal courage, and consequently gains the confidence of the troops under his command. He has shown great tact and humanity in dealing with insurgent Christian populations, and if he will really undertake the settlement of the Goussinié frontier, the Turkish Government ought to confide in him, and abandon all ideas of rectifying boundaries which competent military authorities established, with more regard for the strength of Turkey than of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 166.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 38. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 16, 1879.*

AS I have already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship, the surrender of Spuz and Podgoritza was effected amidst perfect tranquillity, the Mahommedan inhabitants, with few exceptions, remaining and accepting without any outward signs of discontent the new order of things.

However, two days after the installation of the Montenegrin authority, many Mahommedan families left suddenly for Scutari.

I was at Cettingé when their departure commenced, and the Prince expressed himself much annoyed at the occurrence, and endeavoured to ascertain what had caused it, as he had given the strictest orders for his new subjects to be treated on a perfect equality with all other Montenegrins.

Reports reached His Highness that agents of certain persons holding high office in Scutari, but whom he declined to name, had secretly announced to the inhabitants of Spuz and Podgoritza that four Bishops were already on their way from Russia to baptize them, and this, it was alleged, was the cause of the exodus.

I declined to accept it as the motive, but when His Highness told me that he had directed every one in the newly-annexed districts, with the exception of Mollahs and men of advanced years, to wear the Montenegin cap, I ventured to believe that this might have forced the departure of the Mahommedans. Taxes and exactions would be submitted to quietly, but the adoption of what would be considered as a humiliating badge I thought would certainly meet with strong resistance.

His Highness refused to see the matter from the same point of view, and said the Montenegrins, having expressed themselves very decidedly as to the necessity of the adoption of the national head-dress, he could not disregard the popular will.

I suggested that the cap might ultimately be accepted if it was made obligatory only on the holders of Government offices and honours; and, with regard to the mythical Bishops, I advised His Highness to appoint, from among the most respectable Mahommedans, Muftis and Cadis for all the chief towns and villages.

The latter measure the Prince said he would adopt at once, and since my return to Scutari I have learnt that the question of a change of caps has been allowed to drop in the background of a great many more salutary reforms.

I am assured that upwards of 600 families from Podgoritza and the adjoining villages have sought refuge here. Many of these refugees, I observe, are natives of the Herzegovina and Bosnia, who escaped through Montenegro when the resistance to the Austrian advance collapsed.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding shelter for these families, which, I believe, are principally of the indigent classes, as the well-to-do and wealthy have not abandoned their homes.

I am sure that as soon as the daily subsistence allowance made to the fugitives

ceases—and it is not likely to go on for long—they will be as anxious to go back as are the poor people from Antivari and the Kraïna, who were induced to abandon their districts under promises of support and compensation in other parts of the Empire, but on whose behalf I have been called upon to make frequent appeals to the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 167.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 39. Political.)
Scutari, February 17, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I was at Cettigné Prince Nicholas mentioned to me that he had heard that the Turkish authorities were about to arrest and punish Aslan Bey and his brother and Hadji Mehemet Effendi, three notables of Dulcigno, for having remained in that place during the Montenegrin occupation, and for having held seats in the Municipal Council.

His Highness begged me to assure Hussein Pasha, on his word of honour as a Prince, that these gentlemen, although they had assisted his officers in the proper administration of Dulcigno, they had not done one single thing which could be construed into disloyalty towards the Sultan's Government, and that they had merely accepted, with self-respect and dignity, the position which the fortunes of war had forced upon them.

In giving this assurance the Prince said he must point out that it ought to acquire additional weight, as he was in no way prepared to extend it in favour of many other Mahommedans.

On my return here I lost no time in speaking on the matter to Kiamil Pasha, and he has since informed me that Hussein Pasha has not only denied that there ever existed any intention to punish the Dulcigniotes for the satisfaction with which they appeared to have accepted Montenegrin rule, but that he has now published a proclamation at Dulcigno informing the inhabitants that their good behaviour during the Montenegrin occupation is not viewed with displeasure by the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 168.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 42. Political.)
Scutari, February 22, 1879.

My Lord,

BY my telegram of the 14th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship the manner in which I hoped I had succeeded in avoiding the appearance of the expulsion by the Montenegrins from Podgoritza of Colonel Osman Bey, who had been left there by the Turkish Government, somewhat in the position of a Consular officer, to reassure the Mahommedan inhabitants as to their treatment by their new masters.

On my return here from Cettigné I explained to Kiamil Pasha the extreme annoyance felt by Prince Nicholas at the Turkish Government having thought it necessary, without any previous arrangement with His Highness, to leave in Podgoritza the person who had, up to the moment of the surrender, been the military and civil Governor of both Spuz and Podgoritza.

The Prince said the Turkish authorities were perfectly aware that the step was distasteful to the Montenegrin Government, as an attempt made by the Imperial Commissioners to stipulate in the Vir-Bazar Protocol for the presence of a Turkish officer at Podgoritza had been promptly checked by the Montenegrin Commissioners. His Highness told me that, for a moment, although he deplored the humiliating task which had been cast on a brave officer, he had thought of tolerating the presence of Osman Bey, but as soon as he found that before the Mahommedan inhabitants would

obey his officers they claimed the right to consult their late Governor, he saw that the concession could not be made.

I obtained, with considerable difficulty, the Prince's consent not to order away Osman Bey before the evening of the 16th instant, giving me thus time to represent the affair to Kiamil Pasha, and I now urged his Excellency to recall on some pretext the Colonel from Podgoritza, and then put himself in direct intercourse with Cettigné through the Second Commissioner, Anli Bey.

Kiamil Pasha accepted my views and telegraphed to the Porte for authority to act in accordance with them.

I telegraphed in this sense to Cettigné, and begged that if the 16th should expire without Osman Bey having been recalled, he should, nevertheless, not be invited to withdraw immediately.

On the 19th Kiamil Pasha sent to inform me that he had received a reply from Constantinople declining to follow our suggestions, on the ground that the Turkish Government could not overstep prescribed diplomatic usage to the length of dispatching, without any previous arrangement, a representative to Cettigné; and that, in the meantime, Osman Bey was to remain at Podgoritza, as the Porte believed it had secured the support of the British and Russian Ambassadors on the subject.

I immediately called on Kiamil Pasha to express my conviction that an unfortunate decision had been come to, for I had been told at Cettigné that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had already failed to induce the Prince to consent to accept a Turkish Agent without the observance of the usual formalities, and, on the Pasha declining to act further, I was obliged to telegraph to Cettigné that, with reference to my previous communication, I now understood that the Porte would come to a direct understanding with the Principality concerning Osman Bey's stay at Podgoritza.

To-day the Turkish authorities have been greatly annoyed by the arrival in Scutari of Osman Bey, who has brought with him a letter, by which he had been requested by the Montenegrin Commandant of Podgoritza to quit the place, after he had refused to do so on a verbal demand.

Whether this kind of intercourse between Turkey and Montenegro is likely to come to an end I know not, but I am sure if it does not do so the concessions which have been made to secure peace will prove fruitless.

From the sentiments expressed to me by Prince Nicholas, I feel justified in thinking that on his side there is every inclination to meet the Turkish Government half way in commencing the relations of friendship which ought to exist between two neighbouring countries. I have not observed, however, that the authorities here have been able to comprehend that the acknowledgment of the position of Montenegro as an independent State is *bonâ fide*, and all their conduct appears to be guided as if they are under the influence of a nightmare from which they are shortly to wake up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 169.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 42. Political.)
Canea, Crete, February 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 20th instant, desiring to know whether the Sultan's Firman sanctioning the modifications of the Organic Law of 1868 had been published here. I replied the same day that the Firman in question has been published in Crete, as reported in my despatch No. 122 of the 1st December, and No. 2 of the 6th ultimo.

As stated in the former of those despatches, the Firman was publicly read when Alexandre Carathéodory Pasha arrived here as Vali of Crete. The instrument embodied the modifications introduced into the Organic Law, a copy of the French official translation of which having been already forwarded to your Lordship, I content myself with inclosing herewith the preamble thereto, and the closing paragraphs which contain the Imperial sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Translation of the Sultan's Firman sanctioning the Modifications of the Organic Law of Crete of 1867.

A MON Vizir Alexandre Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Crète, décoré des ordres Impériaux du Medjidié de première classe, et de l'Osmanié de seconde classe.

Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Muchir de mon armée Impériale, Chef de l'Etat-Major, décoré des Ordres Impériaux de l'Osmanié en brillants et du Medjidié de première classe, et Salim Effendi Haut Fonctionnaire de mon Empire, Conseiller de la Cour de Cassation, ont été précédemment envoyés en Crète en vertu de mon Iradé Impérial, afin d'y examiner des demandes concernant les modifications au Règlement Organique octroyé par le Firman du Remezan 1284.

A l'arrivée de ces dignitaires en Crète les vœux de la population ont été examinés dans un Conseil tenu *ad hoc*, et composé des personnes dont la présence était nécessaire. Les modifications à introduire au dit règlement, arrêtées en seize Articles, et quelques dispositions particulières, ont été consignées dans un acte qui fut présenté à ma Sublime Porte, et dont la teneur suit. (Here follow the modifications introduced into the Organic Law of 1867).

Ces Articles et dispositions ont été discutés dans le Conseil des Ministres, qui a adopté les modifications ci-dessus comme conformes aux besoins locaux et aux exigences de la situation.

L'affaire ayant été soumise à ma sanction Impériale, j'ordonne que le présent Firman revêtu de mon écriture Impériale, soit promulgué et publié, et qu'il soit ait en conséquence.

No. 170.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 22. Political.)

Canea, Crete, February 23, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Cretan General Assembly has been engaged during the past week in overhauling the accounts of the Agricultural Bank, which the Government established in Crete in 1868, as a means of affording the peasantry pecuniary aid at a moderate rate of interest. These accounts have been allowed to fall into great confusion, the rules laid down for the Bank's administration having been wilfully disregarded. The original capital promised by the Porte had been 8,000,000 piastres (72,720*l.*), but only 6,000,000 piastres (54,540*l.*) having been paid in, the Assembly now demands that the sum be completed.

For some time past the operations of the Bank have ceased from want of funds, which having been lent out at interest to peasants (and merchants the former at 6 and the latter at 12 per cent.), have not been paid back. The Deputies have, accordingly, voted that a term of three years be allowed to those who have had dealings with the Bank to pay back the capital and interest borrowed, and that henceforth no loan be contracted of a higher amount than 5,000 piastres, which, at the present rate of exchange of 130 piastres the £ sterling, is only 38*l.* 10*s.*

The Assembly also took upon itself to call the Government to account for the excess of tithes illegally collected in 1874 and 1875, when the pecuniary straits of the Porte induced it to add 2½ per cent. to the tithes levied throughout the Empire. The call then made on the Cretans created great dissatisfaction, which at last rose to such a height, when the Porte was engrossed with the troubles in Herzegovina, that, in order to quiet the agitation here, it undertook to restore the 2½ per cent., thereby acknowledging the illegality of that additional tax. The tithes of the grain collected in 1875 were at once returned to the peasantry, and the Government promised to restore the rest, which had been already spent, and to add it to the capital of the Agricultural Bank. A payment under this head began, indeed, to be made from the surplus revenue of Benigazi, in Barbary, but it was used for administrative purposes. The restitution of the entire sum is now demanded to increase the capital of the Bank.

The Assembly is now engaged in a thankless and futile task in thus pressing for the settlement of claims which it must know perfectly well the Porte has not the means to meet. It might content itself with taking stringent measures for the proper application of the funds already possessed by the Bank, without attempting to augment them from the inadequate resources of a bankrupt Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 171.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 8. Political.)

Odessa, March 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the first batch of troops, being the Borodino Regiment, 3,000 strong, arrived yesterday from Bourgas in the steamer "Moskva" of the voluntary fleet.

Immediately on landing the soldiers were undressed on the quay and put into Lazaretto clothing. Their uniforms and under-clothing were placed in hermetically sealed railway waggons and thoroughly disinfected for twenty-four hours with the fumes of sulphur. Meanwhile the men were marched to the Lazaretto in squads of twenty, and at the expiration of twenty-four hours return to the waggons and resume their clothing. They then march in squads of twenty to their quarters in the town.

There are as yet only six disinfecting waggons, and a limited number of clothes can be disinfected at a time, therefore, as no soldiers are allowed in the town till their clothes have been disinfected, some of the men will have to pass several days in the Lazaretto.

The men complain that their quarters there are damp and not heated, and that there are no means of thoroughly cleaning their persons.

The Municipal authorities have refused to allow them to use the town baths.

They will be sent off as soon as possible by train to the interior, and the same measures will be adopted to all arrivals.

About 50,000 will land here; the rest will be sent by Nicolaief, Sevastopol, and by land through Bessarabia.

The transport service is performed by the steamers of the Russian Steam Navigation Company and of the voluntary fleet. The Russian Company have discontinued till the end of this service the Saturday's boat to Constantinople, only running one on Tuesdays.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 173.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

March 7, 1879.

SERIOUS disturbances reported from Macedonia. General insurrection expected in a few weeks. No trustworthy intelligence can be got here; a reliable agent at Kustendil much required. Can I look out for one?

Reports of intended Servian co-operation with Bosnian rising in the spring gain ground.

No. 174.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 82. Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, March 7, 1879.

WE to-day finished Chapter 6, and I have now great hopes that the whole scheme may be finished by first week in April, except Chapters 7 and 8, which we hope to arrange by compromise; the others are very short.

I learn from a very good source, that Castellane's proposal to Rauf Pasha was that Governor-General should be, not Contouly, but some experienced French Préfet.

Coutouly's name was evidently an after-thought at Constantinople. I also have positive evidence that French Ambassador advised French Commissioners to disobey orders of the French Foreign Office, the object of his animosity being not M. Waddington but M. Deprez.

He says the latter has disapproved the energy he displayed about Tocqueville proposals, wishing France to remain absolutely effaced.

German Commissioner informs me that he learns, from a German engineer on the railway, that the Bulgarians are now saying they will accept Treaty of Berlin as it is, to be carried out under French auspices and a French Governor.

The Greeks here have sent a remonstrance to French Minister for Foreign Affairs [two groups wrong] as the French Commissioners are deserting Greek interests.

It would be well for the Porte at once to instruct their Commissioners here as to which of their reservations may be conceded.

Tzerctelew after all goes [? Friday].

The Governor of Slivno is raising fresh financial difficulties. M. Ring to-day, in the absence of M. Coutouly, expressed himself very strongly on the adjournment question.

Mr. Calvert informs me that the secret Bulgarian Committee have decided to get up an émeute either on the 27th instant or the 13th April. They are sending emissaries to the country to call in the armed peasantry. The object is to drive away Commission. On the same day insurrection in Macedonia is again to break out. Two of the Geshoffs are reported to be at the head of this movement.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 175.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 7, 1879.*

IT would be well if M. de Ring received a hint from French Minister for Foreign Affairs to consider interests of Greeks. They have presented five petitions, on which I have made a motion that the Commission takes cognizance of their prayer. This will be carried; but the language of both French Commissioners is anti-Greek.

No. 176.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 84. Very Confidential)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 7, 1879.*

FRENCH Military Attaché has just told me that Russians are insisting with him on conditions respecting the militia and gendarmerie, which would make position here untenable. He conveyed to me that M. de Ring supports the Russian view, and the Russians intimate that unless their demands are admitted war will result.

I told him that Her Majesty's Government will not admit such a plea as valid against the proper constitution of these two forces; that the pretension of General Stolipine to constitute these forces in his own fashion and against the Turks is inadmissible, and that Her Majesty's Government are determined that the Treaty of Berlin shall be carried out in spirit and in letter.

I should be glad of an instruction in this sense to show to Sir C. Dickson, who arrives to-morrow.

No. 177.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 7, 1879.*

A SPECIAL supplement to the "Maritza" on a fly-sheet announces that discussion of Constitution begins to-day at Tirnova. The Assembly will send a deputation to the Powers. The Czar Liberator saluted the Assembly by telegraph.

It also announces that number of telegrams report murders and new massacres in Macedonia.

General Dickson and Lord Donoughmore have arrived this evening.

No. 178.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 8, 1879.*

IT is more and more probable that the election of future Prince of Bulgaria will be delayed beyond the appointed (time), and that attempt will be made likewise to prolong Russian provisional régime longer than allowed by Article No. VII of the Treaty.

The evacuation of the Russian forces from Turkish territory is conducted with such remissness, that there is little hope of its completion in Bulgaria within the time fixed, unless the Imperial Government sends much stricter time orders to its subordinates.

No. 179.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 8, 1879.*

I AM not to see the Emperor till Tuesday. There is not much to be done till then, as everything seems to depend on his personal decisions; but I have prepared the way for my interview.

Great repugnance to Rustem Pasha. Emperor would prefer Swiss Protestant. A hint I dropped about possibility of Balkan forces being placed under trustworthy Commandant eagerly met. Rustem Pasha, perhaps, accepted on that condition. Have been assured by M. de Giers not only of desire, but of power of Russian influence to keep Roumelia quiet during transition. Emperor considers Governor-General cannot be appointed until Constitution defining and limiting his powers is promulgated, see Treaty. Impossible to say more at present, but I think we shall reach an understanding.

No. 180.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 8, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 84 of the 7th instant, the Treaty says quite plainly that the militia and gendarmerie are to be officered by the Sultan; that they are to maintain the internal order of the province, except when any menace to internal security requires employment of Ottoman troops; and that the province is to remain under the direct military authority of the Sultan. Her Majesty's Government will not consent to a departure from any of these provisions.

Explain to me what are the conditions demanded by Russian officers which will make position there untenable. Who made use of the menace of war? If you will authorize me to give the names of the person who used it, and the person to whom it was used, I will at once complain at St. Petersburgh.

No. 181.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 8, 1879, 5·40 P.M.*

MACEDONIA is not within the jurisdiction of your Consulate-General, and any measures that may be necessary will be taken from Constantinople. Your action must be strictly limited to Bulgaria on many grounds, among others because any interference by you in other districts may seem to give sanction of Her Majesty's Government to the notion that the inhabitants of the Principality have a right to interfere with what goes on beyond its borders.

No. 182.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879, 4·15 P.M.

PLEASE ascertain what instructions the Austrian Consul at Tirnova has with respect to the admission of M. Davidoff. There seems to be some confusion.

No. 183.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 39, I have not communicated my interpretation of Article XXII to any other Power, and shall not do so till I hear of the view to which Count Andrassy has definitively come. I think there may be a convenience in allowing the Turks to enter before the Russians have actually gone, because the Russians will not be able to decline responsibility for disturbances which Panslavist agencies may raise. If Count Andrassy's view is correct, that the last Russian must have crossed the Danube before the first Turk crosses the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, there will be an interval of at least some days during which pure anarchy will prevail.

No. 184.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879, 3·45 P.M.

I HAVE repeated your No. 40 to Constantinople, with instructions to Mr. Malet to press the wishes of the Austrian Government as earnestly as possible on the Porte.

No. 185.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 41, we have received a Circular from Prince Gortchacow which I fail clearly to understand, but which seems to seek for some modification of boundary in the Balkans. We have not replied to it formally, but I informed Count Schouvaloff that causes of apprehension seemed to me at least as serious as they were at Berlin, and that the effervescence among the Bulgarians constituted a manifest danger to the Sultan's territory. I told him we should appoint a new Boundary Commissioner immediately, so as to be ready for resumption of operations when weather permitted, but that only unsettled details could be left to the Commissioner, and no modification of the Treaty was admissible.

No. 186.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

IF you have any opportunity of obtaining concessions, it would be very desirable to make an arrangement that, in cases of difference among Boundary Commissioners, majority should decide, as was done at Berlin.

No. 187.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received the following figures from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, dated yesterday :—

[Repeat Sir H. Elliot's No. 40.]

I have to instruct you to press the wishes of the Austrian Government as earnestly as possible on the Porte.

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 41.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

IT seems very desirable to make an arrangement that, in cases of difference among the members of the several Boundary Commissions, the question should be decided by a vote of the majority, as was done at Berlin.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency to suggest that you should endeavour to come to an agreement with the Russian Government upon this point, if you should find them in a disposition favourable to concessions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 189.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 42. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called upon me to-day, and inquired whether Her Majesty's Government had come to any decision with respect to the removal of the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora.

I said that it was necessary, before giving any reply, to communicate with the Admiral in command of the squadron, which had been done, and that as soon as any communication was received from him I should be in a condition to answer him.

His Excellency told me that he had intended starting for St. Petersburgh to-night, but that as this was a matter to which his Government attached considerable importance, he would defer his journey till he had received my answer.

He then proceeded to speak of the state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia. He expressed his great apprehension of disturbance, and renewed the expression of his belief that a mixed occupation was the only possible prevention of disorder; and he said that as the Russian Government had resisted it at Berlin, it was from St. Petersburgh that the proposal for it should now come.

I mentioned to Count Schouvaloff some disquieting rumours which had reached me of the language used by some Russian officers in Eastern Roumelia with respect to the organization of the militia.

He told me that it was impossible to carry further the tranquillizing instructions which had been sent from St. Petersburgh to all the representatives of Russian authority in Eastern Roumelia, and that if any different language had been used it was entirely against orders. He added that for the last two or three months the Russian Government had been sincerely anxious to secure tranquillity, and had put forth all their efforts to do this. Unfortunately, he said, this desire, genuine as it now was, had come too late. Six months back a different policy had prevailed, and ideas had been allowed to spread among the Bulgarian population, of which it was difficult now to get rid.

Count Schouvaloff next inquired whether your Excellency, before leaving England, had been authorized to give any explanations to the Imperial Government with regard to British policy in Central Asia as well as in Europe. He said that he

had urged the necessity of this very strongly in a conversation he had had with your Excellency on the day previous to your departure, and that he had received a note stating that you had had satisfactory interviews on the subject both with Lord Beaconsfield and myself.

I told him that the instructions with which your Excellency had been furnished by Her Majesty's Government were to the effect that all the questions under discussion between the two Governments should be treated simultaneously; that if Russia made genuine and serious efforts to prevent any unsettlement in Turkey, England, on her side, would not be found wanting in her exertions to secure tranquillity in Central Asia, but that any sacrifices on our part for such an object in that quarter would be thrown away if Russia did not take measures to secure the peace of the world from being disturbed in the region of the Balkans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 143.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

YOUR Excellency is aware, from my despatch to Lord A. Loftus No. 126 of the 19th ultimo, copy of which has been communicated to you, that Count Schouvaloff has informed me that he understands that the Austro-Hungarian Government have decided that M. Davidoff might be admitted to the Consular Commission in Bulgaria if the Turkish Commissary were also admitted. The impression entertained by his Excellency does not appear to agree with the statement made by Count Karolyi on the 1st ultimo, that his Government considered that M. Davidoff should only attend the Commission to give explanations to facilitate intercourse with the temporary Governor, nor with the report of their attitude on the question given in your Excellency's despatch No. 69 of the 5th ultimo. As some confusion may arise from the want of a complete apprehension of the views of the Imperial Government, I have requested you by telegraph to ascertain what instructions on the subject have been sent to the Austrian Consul at Tirnovo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 145.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 130 of the 7th instant, respecting the period at which the Russian military occupation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia should be effectually terminated, I have to inform you that I have not communicated to any Power but Austria my interpretation of the words of the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that I shall not do so until I shall have heard the view of the subject which may be definitively adopted by Count Andrassy.

It appears to be that it may be in some respects advantageous to allow the Turkish troops to enter East Roumelia before the Russian troops shall have entirely left the province, as the Russians, in that case, will not be able to decline responsibility for disturbances which may be raised by Panslavist agencies. If this view is correct, which I understand Count Andrassy to entertain, that the last Russian soldier must have crossed the Danube before the first Turkish soldier crosses the southern frontier of East Roumelia, it will be impossible to prevent the existence of an interval of at least some days between the Russian departure and the Turkish entry, and it would be improbable that such an opportunity would be lost of disturbing the peace of the province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 147.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I INCLOSE herewith to your Excellency copy of a note addressed to me by Count Schouvaloff on the 27th ultimo, inclosing three Circular despatches addressed by Prince Gortchacow to the Russian Representatives to the Great Powers.

The second of these Circulars proposes an alteration of the line of frontier between Bulgaria and East Roumelia, defined in Article II of the Treaty of Berlin, but, though the Russian Government evidently appears to seek some modification of this boundary in the Balkans, I have not been able clearly to understand the precise nature of the proposal.

Her Majesty's Government have not returned a formal reply to the note, but I have informed Count Schouvaloff that causes of apprehension seemed to me to be at least as serious as they were when the Congress of Berlin was sitting, and that the effervescence among the Bulgarians constituted a manifest danger to the Sultan's territory. I said that a new British Boundary Commissioner would be immediately appointed, so that he might be ready, as soon as the weather should permit, to resume operations, but I observed that all that could be left to the Commissioner would be the settlement of unsettled details, and that no modifications of the Treaty of Berlin would be considered admissible by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 149.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE informed Mr. Malet by telegraph of the views of Count Andrassy respecting the four points which are being put forward by the Porte in its negotiations with Austria, as reported in your despatch No. 132 of the 7th instant, and your previous telegram of the same date, and have instructed him to press as earnestly as possible on the Porte the adoption of the wishes of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 308.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE repeated to you a telegraphic Report, dated yesterday, from Her Majesty's Ambassador, at Vienna, stating the terms upon which the Austrian Government are disposed to conclude the Convention with Turkey for the joint occupation of the Novi-Bazar district.

Count Andrassy is ready to recognize the sovereignty of the Sultan in the terms desired by the Porte, provided that in the rest of the Convention the wording of what was called the rectified Convention agreed to by Carathéodory Pasha at Vienna is adhered to.

His Excellency positively declines to agree to the Austrian occupation being defined in the Convention as "temporary."

He does not object to the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina being generally treated as Ottoman subjects when outside those provinces, but he is of opinion that this arrangement must form the subject of a separate understanding as it involves many details which cannot be conveniently provided for in the Convention now under negotiation.

As regards the strength of the garrisons and the places to be occupied, Count Andrassy argues that these cannot be fixed in the Convention, as both must depend

on the necessities that may arise. He states that the Austrian Government at present only propose to send garrisons to three points near the northern *enclave* of the district, and have certainly no intention of garrisoning Mitrovitza, Novi-Bazar, or Berani; but that Austria cannot abandon the right of garrison in any part of the district in which it was given her by the Treaty of Berlin, supposing that such a measure appear necessary to meet aggression on the part of Servia or Montenegro. The Convention would contain a proviso that wherever Austrian troops were stationed the Porte would have the right of maintaining a force equal to it in strength and in every other respect.

I have instructed you to press with all possible earnestness on the Turkish Ministers the expediency of complying with the wishes of the Austrian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 127. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 84, Very Confidential, of yesterday's date, from which it could appear that the Russian authorities, in their conferences with the French Military Attaché on the subject of the organization of the militia and gendarmerie for Eastern Roumelia, are insisting upon conditions which would make the position untenable, and intimate that unless their demands are admitted war will result.

In regard to this question, the Treaty of Berlin states explicitly that the militia and gendarmerie are to be under officers appointed by the Sultan; that they are to maintain the internal order of the province except when any menace to internal security requires the employment of Ottoman troops (which may in that case be summoned by the Governor-General), and that the province is to remain under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Government will not consent to a departure from any of these provisions.

I shall be glad to hear from you what are the conditions put forward by Russian officials which could have the effect of making the position untenable; and who it is who has made use of the menace of war. If you can authorize the disclosure of the name of the person who employed language of the kind, and of the person to whom it was used, I shall be ready to represent the matter at once to the Russian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 43.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday's date, stating that serious disturbances are reported from Macedonia, and that a general insurrection is expected in a few weeks.

You add that a reliable agent at Kustendil is much wanted, as no trustworthy intelligence can be procured at Tirnova.

I have informed you in reply that, as Macedonia is outside the jurisdiction of your Consulate-General, it will be better that any measures that may be necessary for procuring information should be taken from Constantinople.

It is desirable on many grounds that your action should be strictly limited to Bulgaria. Among other reasons which render this expedient is the fact that any interference by you in other districts would have the appearance of giving the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to the notion that the inhabitants of the Principality have

a special right to concern themselves with occurrences taking place beyond its borders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic. *Constantinople, March* 8, 1879.

I PRESENTED Royal Letter, announcing Duke of Cumberland's marriage, to-day. I informed His Majesty that Her Majesty's Government advised him not to name European Governor, and His Majesty thanked Her Majesty's Government and said his view was the same. His Majesty was very anxious about question of Eastern Roumelia. He was afraid that the troops in the Balkans would be attacked by the Bulgarians on the one side and the Eastern Roumelians on the other, and that if they advanced either way he should be accused of violating the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty seemed pleased at intended proposal of Her Majesty's Government that English officers should accompany occupying force in case of necessity arising. His Majesty was very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for informing the French and Greek Governments that they could not recommend cession of Janina. He begged me to say, if Her Majesty's Government would assist Turkey in any way in its present financial troubles it would contribute materially to benefit of England's interests and relations with the Empire. I urged very strongly on His Majesty the conclusion of the Austrian Convention.

No. 198.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 8, 1879.

FRENCH Minister has strongly advised Greek Government not to break off negotiations with the Porte as long as there is a chance of coming to an amicable arrangement, but to adhere as far as possible to Berlin proposals. [He?] strongly deprecates, as I have done, any insurrectionary movement on part of Greeks, which would be fatal to their aspirations.

Austrian Minister has advised Greek Government to break off negotiations. Whether in doing so he is carrying out instructions of his Government is uncertain, but it is suspected here that Austria is not indisposed, for her own ends, to stir up difficulties in Macedonia.

No. 199.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 9, 1879

GENERAL BAKER takes a very discouraging view of the military situation. He says that Ghazi Osman Pasha is allowing everything to drift. He has no power of organization; complaints and applications made to him are never answered. He now wishes to send 150 men whom he has got together, without any organization, to Adrianople, as gendarmerie. Baker has complained to Grand Vizier, who, in conversation with him, took a most depressing view of things in general, and said, "It is a lost Empire." It is impossible to get Osman Pasha removed, as the Sultan thinks his safety depends upon him. Yet if he remains, Baker doubts a force being in readiness in time capable of subduing Eastern Roumelia. The General says that occupation of Balkans will place Turks in a false and dangerous military position. He advocates concentration at Mustafa Pasha and Djumaa, and preparation for a strong occupation of Bourgas. I have been endeavouring to obtain news as to the progress of the evacuation, but the telegraph to Adrianople and Philippopolis is interrupted.

No. 200.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 9, 1879.*

THE Porte is in a desperate strait for money, as there is none in the Treasury. It has induced the Bank of Zarifi, with considerable difficulty, to advance 150,000*l.* to go on with till 16th, the day on which the first instalment of the De Tocqueville loan is due. If by that time the money is not forthcoming, and English and French Commissioners are not named, paper currency will decrease again rapidly in value, and serious apprehensions are entertained as to public tranquillity. Present rate of paper money, 467 paper piastres to 100 gold piastres.

No. 201.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 9, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks whether the communication of your Lordship to the Governments of France and Greece refers to the town of Janina, to the Sandjak of Janina, or to Epirus generally?

No. 202.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.*

CASTELLANE has returned here and confirmed last night to Austrian Commissioner story about Coutouly. He says that Reouf approved scheme, and that on Tuesday it was submitted to Council and approved by Grand Vizier and Said Pasha. Further he says that Grand Vizier has asked Wallace and the correspondent of the "Temps" to support idea in Europe. Mr. Malet's information does not tally with this, and I believe Castellane to be a great liar. But as French Ambassador and M. Ring are both furious at the refusal of the French Government to support an European Governor, they may cling to this idea, and the Russians could easily bribe Said Pasha to obtain nomination for Coutouly.

Austrian Commissioner has seen Dondoukoff's scheme for railways, which all converge to carry trade to Russia.

He also hears a rumour that France is negotiating to buy Rhodes, and will certainly do so if Tocqueville scheme fails.

I hear that Scobeleff is going to Slivno.

Expect long telegrams about militia and gendarmerie.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 203.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.*

THE Exarch called on me this morning to present to me Mr. John E. Geshoff as representative of Eastern Roumelia in a deputation about to proceed to Courts of Signatory Powers. Mr. Geshoff leaves for Tirnova the day after to-morrow, where he will be joined by a Deputy from Bulgaria and Macedonia. The deputation will then proceed by Bucharest, Vienna, and Paris to London, their object being to visit politicians of latter capitals before proceeding to Berlin, Rome, and Constantinople.

Their object is to ask in the first place for union, and, on that being refused, to ask for modifications in Treaty, viz., an European Governor for Eastern Roumelia and the abolition of Balkan garrisons. These, they say, will be dangerous both for Bulgaria and the province. Mr. Geshoff said it was their object to show the world how reasonable the Bulgarians could be.

The Exarch asked me to give him and Geshoff a letter for you with a view to identify him. I said I would give this letter of identification, but having no instructions I did not know what would be its reception.

No. 204.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.*

M. RING, who has the chapter on Public Worship, thinks of introducing a clause by which the appointment of Bishops in Eastern Roumelia is to be submitted to the Sultan by the Governor-General. If the veto is not pronounced within a certain period the appointment is to be considered sanctioned, as in the case of other functionaries. This does not touch question of Exarch's power of appointing Bishops in Macedonia and elsewhere. I should be glad of your Lordship's opinion.

I must postpone my telegrams on militia.

No. 205.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 89. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.*

THE following plan has occurred to me as a possible solution of difficulties connected with the Balkan garrisons:—

That, without giving up right either of garrisoning or fortifying, Turkey should waive the exercise of it at present, and keep, as she has a perfect right to do, a strong force at Bourgas. The inhabitants of that neighbourhood being mostly Turks and Greeks would not object. This would be a great economy for Turkey. It would give her the command of the sea, and with garrisons judicially posted on the southern frontier and at Adrianople would enable her to govern the [?] province. She might also stipulate for the formation of a strategical line of railway under the Balkans. In return for this concession, which she should herself propose, the Russians should be asked to consent at once to the nomination of Rustem Pasha, to facilitate transfer of the administration of the province, and to make certain concessions on second reading of statute.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 206.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1879, noon.*

PRAY telegraph at once how far evacuation of Turkish territory outside Eastern Roumelia has gone according to your latest information.

No. 207.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1879, 11 P.M.*

DO not give M. Geshoff any note of introduction to me, as I shall decline to see him or any person representing a party in Eastern Roumelia. Inform him to that effect, and also that Her Majesty's Government will absolutely refuse to entertain any proposal for the modification of the Berlin Treaty.

No. 208.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 135.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 87, stating that M. J. F. Geshoff is about to leave Philippopolis with a deputation from Eastern Roumelia to the Courts of the Signatory Powers, for the purpose of requesting modifications of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to that province.

Understanding from your report that you have been asked to give to M. Geshoff a letter of introduction to me, I have requested you not to do so, as I shall decline to see him or any person representing a party in Eastern Roumelia.

I shall be glad if you will intimate this to M. Geshoff, and will also inform him that Her Majesty's Government will absolutely refuse to entertain any proposal for the modification of the provisions of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 209.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 19, 1879.

MY telegrams of the 15th and 17th instant will have explained to your Lordship the nature of the communications received by this Government from some of the friendly Powers, and I now have the honour to report as the result of the reflections which these have suggested, that the evacuation of Arab-Tabia by the Roumanians commenced to-day.

The statement which has appeared with reference to this matter in the "Agence Russe" leads one to suppose that an arrangement for a *modus vivendi* must have been come to on the subject at St. Petersburgh, but nothing of it is known here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 210.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 21, 1879.

IT is only the fort called Arab-Tabia, and not the surrounding villages, that has been evacuated by the Roumanians.

The Commanding Officer has transferred his quarters to the village of Ostrovo or Adakioy.

I am assured on the best authority that the evacuation was not the consequence of any previous understanding with Russia, as has been boldly hinted from St. Petersburgh, but that the increasing danger of a collision and the strong recommendations of some of the Powers have induced the Government of Prince Charles to take this step, and an explanation to that effect has been sent by the Foreign Minister here to the Prince's Representatives at foreign Courts in the form of a Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 211.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 58 Secret.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 24, 1879.

THE Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburgh has reported to his Government a conversation of Prince Gortchacow's, from which little hope is left that the Imperial

Cabinet can be induced to give up the pretensions it has put forward for Bulgaria to the possession of Arab-Tabia.

If the terms in which the Russian Chancellor has expressed himself to General Ghika have been reported correctly, it would appear that the Emperor looks upon the Dobrudscha as a gift bestowed by His Majesty on this country, and that it is denied that Roumania has any direct concern or right to invoke any particular boundary for her new territory.

This mode of viewing the relations between the Principality and her powerful Imperial ally ought on no account to be overlooked by the other Powers, as it not only tallies with the past history of the relations of that Empire with these Principalities, but also corresponds exactly to the repeated efforts made by Russian diplomacy lately to impress on Roumania the absolute necessity to enter upon separate engagements as the most advantageous way for her to secure the goodwill of Russia, and obtain favours which it is no use expecting through any support to be derived from other sources.

As can be naturally expected, the turn which this affair is taking leads many people to look upon the Dobrudscha as a precarious acquisition, and is the occasion of much uneasiness here: though the suspicion of an existing separate agreement with Russia as to a *modus vivendi*, which was credited here a few days ago, may be entirely dismissed for the present, there is sufficient ground for anxiety for the future if, as it is apprehended, France and Italy show less disposition to support Roumania against Russian pretensions than they did at first, whilst Germany continues more than ever indifferent to these ever-recurring differences.

From the way in which M. Waddington and Count Corti pleaded in favour of an extension of the Dobrudscha in the sitting of the Congress of July 1st (Protocol No. 10), the Russians would like to deduce now that if they can induce France and Italy to consent to a modification of the decision of the Boundary Commission the matter is settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 212.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 25, 1879.

WITH reference to the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship in despatch No. 16 of the 22nd January, as to the expediency of an announcement being made by the Roumanian Government to the effect that Sulina is to be for the future, as heretofore, a free port, I am happy to say that I had anticipated your Lordship's wishes in this respect, and have received by post your Lordship's approval in your despatch No. 23 of the 3rd instant.

I now have the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular on this subject addressed by the Foreign Minister to the Agents of this Government at foreign Courts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Circular from the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Representatives at Foreign Courts.

(Translation.) *January* $\frac{19}{31}$, 1879.

CONSIDÉRANT la situation exceptionnelle, créée au Port de Soulina, du temps de la domination Ottomane dans la Dobroudja, par la reconnaisance de port franc, qui lui fut faite en 1870; vu l'Article LIII du Traité de Berlin, le Conseil des Ministres, à ma requête, a autorisé mon collègue au Ministère des Finances d'élaborer un Règlement qui, confirmant l'état de choses antérieur, accorde à Soulina les droits et immunités d'un port franc.

En portant à votre connaissance ce qui précède, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien communiquer cette décision au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, lorsque vous serez interpellé à cet égard.

No. 213.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 25, 1879.

ACCORDING to information received at Bucharest, it appears that the Russians have occupied Arab-Tabia, and that 8,000 men were held in readiness to effect this by force at the very time when the evacuation of that position was effected by General Angelescu's orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 214.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 25, 1879.

I CONSIDER it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the manner in which Russian agents are endeavouring to spread in a variety of places accusations directed against Austria, charging that Power with seeking to foment disturbances in Eastern Roumelia and in Macedonia.

In the Bulgarian journal of the Russian Chancellerie at Philippopolis, the "Maritza," No. 54 of the $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ February, a most violent article is printed in that sense on the subject of Macedonia, predicting to that province the danger of becoming another Bosnia, and pretending that foreign secret agents are present there who are not Russo-Bulgarians.

In a similar way the Special Correspondent of the "Times," in a telegram to that paper from Tirnova on the 22nd February, speaks of "numerous Austrian agents in Macedonia, and of the policy of Vienna seeking to utilize further disturbances in these provinces for the extension of the Bosnian occupation to Salonica."

Such an agreement in intelligence emanating from the two residences of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff cannot be accidental, and appears highly suspicious. It is difficult at once to point to its ultimate object, but it is very likely disseminated with a view to foster bad feeling at Constantinople against Austria, and to throw fresh difficulties in the way of any adjustment of the negotiations about Novi-Bazar or for the occupation by an European force of Eastern Roumelia.

A most virulent language against Austria, her policy, and her officials can be noticed amongst Russians of late in various directions, and cannot be so general without some hidden cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 215.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 66. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 25, 1879.

MY first impression on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 24th instant was that there could be no objection to the publication of my despatch No. 233 of the 16th November, 1878.

I went, however, this morning to see the Foreign Minister, and spoke to him on the subject. He ordered the entire correspondence with the Russian Minister here to be produced, and allowed me to read the original draft of the note of his predecessor dated the 15th November, to which a reference had been made in my despatch No. 233; and also another draft of a later date on the same subject.

From their perusal I had a full confirmation that the facts mentioned by me at the time were true and correctly reported; but on both drafts was written the word "Annulé" in large characters, and the Under-Secretary explained that at a later stage of these negotiations it was agreed by the former Foreign Minister, M. Cogalniceano, to cancel these two notes, and to consent to their withdrawal.

Under the circumstances, I came to the conclusion to ask your Lordship to abstain

from the publication of that despatch, as it would be giving an opening to a denial on the part of the Russian Cabinet, which would make it difficult for me to justify my allegations in a way satisfactory to the parties ignorant of these strange transactions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 216.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 26, 1879.

THE motion for revising Article VII of the Constitution by the future Chambers has been constantly before the present ones in an inchoate form during the last four weeks.

Each Chamber appointed a Special Committee of seven members, and as there are no precedents to follow in such a case, these Committees have been in constant communication with each other and with the Ministers, with a view to draw up and agree upon some form likely to prove acceptable to both Chambers, and to meet with that legislative sanction which is considered indispensable prior to a dissolution.

It is hoped that, notwithstanding these delays, which are very much to be deplored, and which have prevented every progress, even of the most urgent business, it will be possible to terminate the present Parliamentary Session with the Easter holidays.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 217.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 27, 1879.

THE Committees of the two Chambers to which I referred in my previous despatch of this day have been engaged in discussing the advisableness of recommending the amendment of other portions of the present Constitution, besides that having merely reference to religious inequality.

All parties are agreed that some few Articles might be modified with advantage, and two extreme sections of politicians would be naturally desirous to alter in opposite directions the existing electoral system.

There are those who would enlarge it; there are others who would like the suffrage to be more restricted and manipulated otherwise.

It certainly appears strange that each political party obtains by turns such an overwhelming majority in the Chamber of Deputies that it leaves the other almost unrepresented.

This was the case after the general election four years ago, when M. Bratiano sat in the Chamber with only a few supporters.

This is the case now when there are only three or four Deputies holding the political opinions of the Ministry that was in office three years ago.

It appears that all attempts to introduce at the present moment more extensive reforms in the Constitution will be discouraged as inopportune, and the future Chambers will be invited to modify only Article VII.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 218.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 1, 1879.

HER MAJESTY'S Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade kindly informed me that it was supposed that General Tchernaieff had gone to St. Petersburgh by way of Bucharest.

I am not in the least surprised at the suspicions which attached to that person's movements; his antecedents, his intimacy with Prince Milan, and his connection with the Moscow Panslavists combined to give his visits to Nisch and Sophia an ominous importance.

At Bucharest it was reported that he was to have the chief command of the Bulgarian army. This I ascertained, through Mr. Palgrave, as being incorrect, and I believe it is almost certain now that he has returned to St. Petersburgh, probably by order of the Emperor.

It is likewise probable that he passed through Bucharest, but of this I cannot be certain, as he was not seen by any person of my acquaintance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—A copy of the above despatch has been sent by me to Mr. Gould.

No. 219.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in the absence of M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Minister, from his post at Constantinople, Colonel Falcoyano, a Staff Officer, has been sent to the Turkish capital for the purpose of giving the foreign Ambassadors any information they might desire on the subject of the boundary about Silistria.

Colonel Falcoyano had been employed on duty by the Delimitation Commission in November last, and I gave him a letter of introduction to Mr. Malet, C.B.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 220.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 3, 1879.

A GENTLEMAN employed temporarily at Kustendjie called on me a couple of days ago and gave me some information about the state of affairs there.

According to his account, the Roumanian Administration is giving satisfaction, but it has to contend with immense difficulties owing to the Russian occupation. These have a garrison of 5,000 men, retain possession of all the public buildings and of many of the best private houses, and are by no means accommodating or disposed to be conciliatory to the Roumanians.

The Tartars and other Mussulmans are getting quite reconciled to the new rule, and show no longer a disposition to emigrate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 221.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 3, 1879.

INFORMATION received from Rustchuk confirms fully the extensive preparations made by the Russians to withdraw a great part of their forces from Bulgaria.

Large bodies of cavalry are expected shortly to be directed by railway from Shumla or Rustchuk on their way home.

Public attention in Bulgaria is naturally concentrated on the proceedings of the Assembly now sitting at Tirnova.

The Russian rule has been found by most Bulgarians exacting, overbearing, by no means perfect, and extremely expensive. It is natural that a reaction may produce itself amongst the natives, especially among those who have been educated either at Robert College or abroad, as soon as the province is evacuated by the Russian troops.

There are some amongst these I hear who would be disposed to delay the discussions on the Organic Statute in such a way as to defer the election of the Prince until after that event.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 222.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 3, 1879.

IN a couple of days it is hoped that the present Chambers will have accomplished their share of the task as regards Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

The application of the principle thus accepted will be left entirely to the new Chambers, which are to meet next May or June.

But it would be a mistake to suppose that either the present or any other Roumanian Administration will be disposed to adopt the interpretation of their obligations in this matter to the full extent that some persons in Berlin and in Paris are desirous to see deduced from the above Article.

The claim of political rights for all Jews born in Roumania irrespective of the origin and nationality of their parents will be resisted to their utmost.

Should such a wholesale admission be insisted upon under the Treaty as a condition *sine qua non* of entering into regular diplomatic relations with this Court, the Powers which adhere to this view must be prepared to defer recognition for a much longer period, and that delay may in the end be found inconvenient, not only on grounds of general political interests, but likewise because it may affect unfavourably the commercial negotiations and relations of some of those Powers with Roumania.

I have not concealed from your Lordship this my impression on previous occasions, and I should be very sorry if any misconception should arise hereafter, when it may be found that the new legislation will not correspond fully to the expectations formed by persons not residing here of the extent to which it is proposed to admit to political rights persons of the Jewish religion.

In support of this view I beg leave to inclose a translated extract from the journal, the "Romanul," which I am sure represents the actual views of the Ministry on this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Extract from the "Romanul" of February 14/26, 1879.

(Translation.)

M. MAIORESCO pretends that the interests of the country have suffered by delaying the settlement of the question of the Jews, according to the Treaty of Berlin.

If we judge the question from the point of view of the Jewish Alliance, there has been indeed danger. That Universal Association of Jews has succeeded in provoking in the European public opinion and press a current extremely favourable to the Jews, inasmuch as it pretends to give rights to all the Jewish population in the country.

Delay has had for its object to enlighten public opinion in regard to the dangerous pretensions of the Israelitic Alliance; to deliver us from influences contrary to Roumanian interests, and to cause us to see clearly in this question. These objects have, in part, been attained. We see the organs of publicity, the most important in all Europe, discussing and recognizing the dangers to which we would have been exposed if we had listened to the Israelitic Alliance.

Delay has been advantageous in spreading and accrediting the idea that the Jewish question is an economic question, and that there are Jews who ought not to enter into the Roumanian citizenship, as in no manner have they approached what makes them fit to become Roumanians.

The question must be settled, but we must also consider what will be a solution which reconciles the principles with our national interests.

No. 223.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 76. Secret.)
Bucharest, March 3, 1879.

My Lord,

FROM two very different quarters your Lordship has been informed that it is surmised that Prince Charles will assume the title of King.

Mr. Gould mentioned this in his despatch No. 46, of which he kindly sent me a copy, and a similar inference may be drawn from Lord Odo Russell's despatch No. 38, marked Secret, relating to the Roumanian succession.

With reference to these reports, I beg leave to state that both the idea of assuming a royal title and that of adopting a relative have at various times been ventilated here, but that as regards the latter a feeling of delicacy towards the Princess has prevented His Royal Highness from taking the initiative.

The Austro-Hungarian Government entertain very strong objections to the Prince of this country assuming the title of King, and this is very well known here; on the other hand, the relations with Russia are far from being pleasant just now, and, therefore, I am disposed to give full credence to the assurances given me here, that there exists no intention whatever, at present, to move with regard to either of these two questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—A copy of the above despatch has been sent by me to Mr. Gould.
W. A. W.

No. 224.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 78.)
Bucharest, March 3, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron Stuart is about to leave Bucharest to-morrow.

According to instructions received from his Government, M. Jacobson, the Russian Consul at Jassy, has been left as Chargé d'Affaires, and the Baron has not presented a letter of recall to Prince Charles. Of the two persons attached to the Legation, one, M. Kazarinoff, is gone to Jassy as Acting Consul, the other is going to Russia.

As there is no question pending between the two countries, and the one respecting the boundary is in the hands of the Powers, there is no other way to account for all this scenic effect ("mise en scène"), except an intention to bully Roumania into submission.

I am told on good authority that the position of General Ghika, the Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburgh, has been made so disagreeable that he will probably be allowed to return home.

The effect of all this on the politicians of Bucharest is very considerable, and people ask each other what have we done to deserve the Czar's wrath? the Western Powers have shown lately but little interest in our fate, and had not we better look about us and see what can be done to avert impending dangers?

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 225.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 79.)
Bucharest, March 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Charles has issued a Decree, on the 27th ultimo, by which the ordinary Session of the Roumanian Legislature is to continue one month longer, from the 27th February to the 26th March of this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 226.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 80.)
Bucharest, March 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the resolution on the subject of the amendment of the Constitution removing religious inequality was at length read in both Chambers yesterday. It is as follows:—

"In accordance with Article 129 of the Constitution, it is declared that an amendment of Article 7 of the said Constitution is necessary."

The discussion is to commence to-day.

It has been decided, however, that the thirty days required to complete the necessary formalities count from yesterday, so that the present Chambers will be closed on the 3rd April next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 227.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury —(Received March 10.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)
Belgrade, February 22, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Minister has received information, through his confidential agents, that for some time back arms in considerable quantities have been secretly collected at various points along the Servo-Bulgarian frontier towards Pirot, in view of a projected rising in Eastern Roumelia against the separation of that province from Bulgaria.

The movements of General Tchernaieff are shrouded in mystery, even the Servian Government professing complete ignorance on the subject. By some accounts he is still at Sophia, where he has received a command in the Bulgarian army, and that version is the one most generally credited. By other accounts, after having revisited Nisch, he is already on his way back to St. Petersburgh viâ Bucharest.

The only two points which are not open to doubt are, that he has been restored to the rank he formerly held in the Imperial army, the Russian official Gazette having notified his having been granted two months' leave of absence to proceed abroad, and that to all outward appearances he met with a most chilling reception from Prince Milan and his Government, and failed in securing the concession of the Servian railways, the alleged object of his visit to Nisch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 228.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 23, 1879.*

THE Austrian Minister informs me that all traffic through the mountain passes leading directly from Bosnia to Novi-Bazar has been suddenly interrupted. He does not know whether to attribute this measure to the local Ottoman authorities or to the native population, but he looks upon it as an ominous symptom of hostility to the further advance of the Austrian army of occupation. All the supplies which still reach the Imperial forces from this sandjak have, therefore, to be sent round either by way of Visegrad or across Servian territory.

I have also learnt, from a totally different quarter, that the Austrian troops are being gradually pushed forward and concentrated in the direction of Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 229.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 23, 1879.*

WITHIN the last few days the frontier on the side of Albania has again been in a very unsettled state, owing to the renewal of hostilities on the part of the neighbouring Albanian population. A band, said to be very numerous, penetrated into Servian territory, set fire to several buildings, and carried off all the cattle they were able to lay their hands upon. They were eventually driven back, with loss, into their own territory by a body of Servian troops; but, according to M. Ristich's statement, the pursuit had to be discontinued, as their retreat was covered by a force of Nizams who unexpectedly appeared on the ground. There is, however, good reason to believe that the Servian troops had on this occasion, as they are known to have often done before, advanced considerably beyond their own boundary.

The Servo-Albanian frontier has been at all times the scene of border warfare, each party eagerly seizing every favourable opportunity to make a raid into the other's territory. At one period in the reign of Prince Michael this state of things became so intolerable that representations had to be addressed to the Porte. They were so far successful that an inquiry was instituted to ascertain the amount of damage mutually inflicted by either side, and in the end a small sum of money was awarded to Servia as compensation—the Albanians having been proved to be the most successful aggressors. The authority of the Porte over this part of its dominions and its turbulent populations was even then so slight that it is a matter of doubt whether it ever attempted to recover from them the amount of compensation paid over on their behalf to the Servian Government.

If the results of the late war have not been, on the one hand, such as to strengthen the Sultan's authority in Albania, they have also, on the other hand, tended greatly to embitter the long-standing feud between the Albanians and their Servian neighbours. As the latter advanced, they ruthlessly drove before them the whole Albanian population. To this very day a great number of Albanian villages in the districts occupied by the Servians are lying deserted, every attempt of their starving inhabitants to return to their homes being repelled by force. These wretched people, driven to exasperation by want coupled with a desire for revenge, lurk about in the neighbourhood of the frontier, ever on the watch to retaliate on their enemies by murdering and plundering them. Their countrymen not unnaturally make common cause with them, and hence raids on an unusually large scale are every now and then undertaken, as in the instance previously referred to. The regular Turkish troops posted along the border are few in number, and therefore unable to cause the frontier to be respected by either side. It is believed the extremely harsh measures resorted to by the Servian Government were dictated partly by a desire to clear their territory of an alien and hostile race, and partly with the object of providing farms for such of the Christian population of Servian origin scattered throughout Albania as might be induced to immigrate into the Principality. The dread inspired by the Albanians is, however, so great that none of them have ventured to settle on the vacant lands, and that a wide

tract of country along this portion of the frontier has in consequence become a perfect wilderness.

Under these circumstances, it would be of great advantage if timely precautions were taken to insure the security of the Commission when it proceeds, next May, to delimitate this section of the boundary; and I therefore venture to renew to your Lordship the suggestion I made last autumn—that the Porte should be urged to concentrate, during the time the Commissioners are engaged in carrying out their operations, a sufficient body of regular troops to protect this line of frontier on the one side, whilst the Servian troops would perform the same duty on the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 230.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 23, 1879.*

I HAVE taken every pains to ascertain whether there is any foundation for the report which has reached the Porte, that insurrectionary bands are being recruited i this country for the invasion of Macedonia, and that a certain number of officers hav n with the same object, resigned their Commissions in the Servian army at the instige. tion of General Tchernaieff. M. Ristich indignantly denies that there is the le a- pretext for such a statement, and I can add that up to the present time there is ast evidence obtainable here either that armed bands are being formed, or that any offi no have of late permanently retired from the Servian military service, although som cers reported to have temporarily accepted civil employment in the newly c are ceded districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 231.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 24, 1879.*

COUNT JOANNINI, the Italian Agent and Consul-General here, has been instructed by his Government to inform M. Ristich officially that Italy is fully prepared to recognize the independence of Servia the moment the measure affecting the position of the Jews in the Principality has been finally passed by the Extraordinary Skuptschina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 232.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 26, 1879.*

AS a preliminary step towards the regular administrative organization of the newly ceded territories, the Servian Government have caused a list to be drawn up of the villages included in each of the four provinces into which they are divided. According to this list there are 248 villages in the district of Nisch, 189 in that of Pirot, the same number in that of Vranja, and 372 in that of Toplitza, or altogether the large sum of 998 villages in the four above-named provinces.

They are now actively engaged in taking a census of the population for the purpose of assessing the taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 233.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 28, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 21 of the 18th ultimo, I reported to your Lordship that Colonel Catargi would probably be selected as the future Servian Representative at the Courts of St. Petersburgh and Berlin. It would, however, seem that, for some unknown reason, Prince Milan's Government have suddenly changed their mind, the Russian Minister here having within the last three or four days been officially requested to ascertain whether the nomination of M. Milosav Protitch, the late Servian Diplomatic Agent at St. Petersburgh, would be acceptable to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander.

I have good cause to know that this appointment will not be particularly agreeable to the Russian Government, and that it is also not such as to meet the personal wishes of Prince Milan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 234.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Baron des Michels, the lately appointed French Minister Resident, is on his way to Nisch to present his letters of credence from the President of the French Republic to His Highness Prince Milan. On the eve of his departure from Belgrade he received, it appears, special instructions from his Government to state in his address to the Prince that, confiding in the unmistakable proofs Servia had already given of her sincere desire to conform strictly to the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin, France had determined fully to recognize her independence without waiting for the final passage of the measure affecting the civil rights of the Jews in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 235.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, February 27, 1879.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, received late yesterday, I had the honour of dispatching early this morning the following telegram:—

"My speech was impromptu, in the name of all the European Delegates; no report of it was kept. It merely congratulated the Assembly, exhorted them to give their whole attention to the elaboration of the Organic Law, and promised them the sympathy and support of Europe if they did so. When I had ended, my French, German, and Italian colleagues, who were present, assured me that my speech had been strictly guarded and correct, and that they absolutely approved it every word."

I have already had the honour, in my despatches and telegrams dated from this place, of exposing to your Lordship not only the avowed desires of, it seems, the Deputies in general with regard to territorial extension, but also the intrigues of several of them to force this very topic on the Assembly. Hence, when I found myself thus suddenly and unexpectedly called on to speak, I was particularly anxious that my speech should distinctly note the objects of the Assembly, as defined by Articles IV and VII of the Treaty, and should at the same time unmistakably imply the exclusion of every other consideration. When I had ended, and my colleagues came forward to thank and congratulate me, I anxiously asked them twice over whether any word had, in the haste of an extempore address, escaped me that might possibly have seemed indiscreet, or in excess of what our own mandate, as well as that of those whom I had been addressing, admitted. They at once and repeatedly assured me that not a single expression of the kind had occurred in my speech, and that I had exactly rendered what they themselves would have desired to have said.

I do not know what erroneous or absurd reports on the matter may have been made at a distance; none such, that I can learn of, having been current here. But I respectfully trust that the above explanation, which I am sure my colleagues, as also others present on the occasion alluded to, would, if called on, fully confirm, may suffice as refutation to any distorted and mischievous statements in this particular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 236.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, February 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a translation, from the Bulgarian, of the Programme for an Organic Law, from Article 38 to the end, submitted by the Imperial Russian Commissioner to the Bulgarian Assembly of Notables at this place, together with an Annex, containing special regulations for the election of the first Prince. The first part of the same Programme, from Article 1 to Article 38 inclusive, I have already had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship in my despatch No 15, Political.

The Programme offers, in many respects, ample field for criticism; but to enter on it would seem at present unnecessary, the more so that, as I understand, the Assembly before which it has been laid intends its minute discussion and its probable modification on several not unimportant points, the composition of the National Assembly being one.

At the same I beg leave respectfully to apologize for the delay in the transmission of this document, a delay occasioned by the many and urgent occupations of the last week, as well as by the scantiness of a staff which consists of one single Secretary-Dragoman, whose diligence in preparing the rough draft of the translation now forwarded deserves my commendatory mention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Programme for the Organic Constitution of the Principality of Bulgaria—(continued).

(Translation.)

CHAPTER IX.—*Religion.*

36 and 37. In previous sheet.

38. The Principality of Bulgaria, being itself a portion of the Bulgarian territorial Church, is, from an ecclesiastical point of view, subject to the supreme head of the Bulgarian Church, wherever that headship may be. It is through the medium of this supreme head that the Principality maintains its union with the Universal Eastern Church in all matters concerning religious dogma.

39. Christians not belonging to the Orthodox faith, and the professors of other religions generally, whether Bulgarian-born subjects or naturalized, as well as all foreigners residing temporarily or otherwise in Bulgaria, enjoy the free exercise of their own religion, so long as the manner of their worship does not contravene the general laws of the land.

40. No one can, under plea of religious scruples, claim exemption from the general laws and obligations binding on the inhabitants of the Principality at large.

41. The ecclesiastical concerns of non-Orthodox Christians, and of all non-Christian sects whatever, are left to the management of their respective ecclesiastical

heads, but come under the ultimate authority of the Minister of the Ecclesiastical Department.

Chapter X.—*Legislation.*

42. The Principality of Bulgaria is to be governed according to the laws which are passed and published in the manner specified by the Constitution.

43. No law can be framed, added to, altered, or annulled without the previous consideration and approval of the National Assembly, which also has alone the right of giving it complete and definitive interpretation.

44. Any law passed by the National Assembly must be presented to the Prince for confirmation.

45. After being confirmed by the Prince, the law must be published in full text, and mention must be made in the publication that the said law has been accepted by the National Assembly. No law is obligatory or in force till after such publication.

46. Should the Principality be menaced by any urgent danger from without or within, and should it be at the same time impossible to convoke the National Assembly, the Prince alone can, on the advice and the responsibility of the Ministerial Council, issue orders and frame regulations having for the time the force of law. But such extraordinary regulations must subsequently be submitted to the first National Assembly that can be called together.

47. Provided that in the above Article 46 be in no wise included the imposition of taxes, which can only be done after the consent of the National Assembly.

48. The National Assembly alone can decide whether all the conditions provided by the Constitution have been duly observed in the making of any particular law.

49. The formalities, according to which a law is actually put in force, and the measures by which it is so, belong to the Executive.

Chapter XI.—*State Property.*

50. All State property belongs to the Principality itself, and neither the Prince nor his relatives can derive any personal gain from it.

51. The conditions under which State property can be alienated or let, as well as the management of the revenue derived from it, will be determined by special law.

52. The management of State property is entrusted to the Minister of that Department.

Chapter XII.

Part I.—*General Regulations.*

53. Every one born within the territory of the Principality, and not of foreign parentage, is considered its subject.

54. Foreigners may become Bulgarian subjects by their recognition as such by the National Assembly, or by the Council of State. Either procedure is legal.

55. Any subject of the Principality can divest himself of that quality after having fulfilled his term of military service, and performed his other duties of a State subject, according to a special law for the regulation of this matter.

56. All Bulgarian subjects are equal before the law, and no condition is privileged.

57. Political rights are enjoyed by Bulgarian citizens alone, but civil rights by all resident within the Principality.

58. Police regulations, and the laws on which they are based, have force in regard of every one living within the Principality.

59. All real property within the Principality, not excepting that held by foreigners, is subject to the provisions of Bulgarian law.

60. In all other matters the position of resident foreigners is regulated by special laws.

Part II.—*The State and Public Service.*

61. Only Bulgarian subjects can occupy posts in the service of the State, whether civil or military.

62. Foreigners may be appointed to such posts, but under condition that every such individual appointment be subject to the consideration and decision of the National Assembly.

Part III.—*Private Property.*

63. Private property is sacred.

64. The surrender of private property can only then be enforced when called for by requirements of State or public utility, and in return for an adequate compensation. The details regarding such expropriation are to be specified by enactment.

Part IV.—*Taxes and Duties.*

65. All Bulgarian subjects are obliged, without exception, to the payment of all taxes, duties, and fines appointed by law. Exemptions for foreigners are determined by special regulations.

66. The Prince and his heir are exempt from all dues and taxes.

Part V.—*Military Service.*

67. Every Bulgarian (male) subject is under the obligation of military service, according to the law for that effect.

68. Military persons can only be tried for criminal offences by Court-martial when on active service.

Part VI.—*Rights of Person and Domicile.*

69. No punishment can be inflicted on any one without sentence given by the Tribunal concerned, having lawful authority.

70. Persons can be imprisoned and houses searched only according to the conditions specified by law.

71. Should disturbances occur of a nature to compromise the public safety, the Prince has power to suspend Articles 69 and 70 within particular districts, or even throughout the entire Principality; but this can only be done by the substitution of definite regulations, which must be submitted for confirmation to the first National Assembly.

72. Private letters and telegrams are regarded as secret and inviolable. The penalties for the violation of the secrecy of letters and telegrams will be determined by special law.

Part VII.—*National Education.*

73. Primary education is obligatory for all Bulgarian subjects.

Part VIII.—*Freedom of the Press.*

74. The Press is free; but those who make a bad use of this freedom will be responsible for so doing according to special laws on this topic.

75. Offences against the laws of the Press are tried by public tribunal.

Part IX.—*Freedom of Meeting.*

76. All Bulgarian citizens have the right of meeting together, peacefully and without arms, for the purpose of considering any question whatever, without having to ask previous permission for that purpose; but open-air meetings are subject to the police regulations.

Part X.—*Right of Petition.*

77. Any Bulgarian citizen can present a petition to the authorities whom the matter regards, but only in his own name. Petitions may also be presented by orders and societies recognized by the Government, for matters recognized by the law as regarding their interests.

Chapter XIII.—*National Representation.*

78. Bulgarian representation is expressed by a National Assembly, which is either (1) ordinary, or (2) great.

Chapter XIV.—*The Ordinary National Assembly.*

Part I.—*The Composition of the Assembly, and who are to take part in it.*

79. Are included in the composition of the ordinary National Assembly—

(*a.*) The Bulgarian Exarch, or his representative, and half the Metropolitans and Directors of Sees, according to their rank.

(*b.*) Half of the Presidents and members of the Supreme Court of Justice, according to their rank.

(*c.*) Half of the Presidents of the District and Commercial Tribunals, according to their rank.

(*d.*) Representatives directly elected, for a fixed period, by popular vote, one for every 20,000 inhabitants of either sex. Special regulations will determine the manner of election.

(*e.*) Individuals nominated by the Prince, one for every two popular representatives, and for the same period of time as the latter. The Prince may nominate a smaller quota.

80. These representatives sit in behalf of the entire nation, and accordingly no instructions received from their constituents can be binding on them. They have full liberty to consider all the requirements of Bulgaria, according to their own conscience and conviction.

81. At the opening of the session the National Assembly, under the presidency of the Exarch, or of his representative, elects six from among its own members, and presents them to the Prince, who selects and nominates from among those thus presented the President and Vice-President of the Assembly.

82. The National Assembly selects from among its own members the necessary number of Secretaries.

83. Ministers may be present during the sittings, and may take part in the debates. The Assembly is bound to listen to the Ministers whenever they desire to speak, without interrupting them.

84. The Prince may, either without the co-operation of the Ministers, or in concert with them, nominate special Commissioners for explaining to the Assembly Bills or Projects laid before it. In such case the Commissioners have the Ministerial privileges specified in Article 83.

85. The Assembly can summon the Ministers and Commissioners to be present at its sittings, in order to supply all necessary information and explanations, and the Ministers and Commissioners are bound in such case to present themselves to the effect above stated. But the Ministers may, on their own responsibility, withhold such information or explanations as might, if given, be injurious to the interests of the State.

Part II.—*Liberty of Opinion and Personal Security of the Members of the Assembly.*

86. Each member of the Assembly has the right of freely stating his opinion, and of voting according to his conviction and conscience. No one can call a member to account for his opinion, or make it a reason of opposition or persecution of any kind.

87. The authority of the President, and the obligation of the members of the Assembly, in what regards the observance of due order and decorum during the sittings, are defined by special regulations to that effect.

88. Should any member during session time commit an offence of a nature comprised under criminal law, the offender can, on a vote of the Assembly, be brought to trial.

89. No member of the Assembly can, during the five days which precede its opening and during the entire session, be arrested or brought to trial except for such crimes as are visited with the heaviest penalties by the law. The arrest must in such case be at once notified to the Assembly, and it is after its vote only that trial can take place.

90. No member can be arrested for debt during the five days that precede the opening of the Assembly or during the entire session.

91. Vacancies occasioned by the decease of members, or otherwise, will be filled up after the manner specified in the law of election.

Part III.—*The Publicity of the Sittings of the Assembly.*

92. Sittings of the National Assembly are held with open doors.

93. The President, a Minister, a Commissioner, and any number of the members of the Assembly, not being less than three, can demand the exclusion of strangers. While the demand is under debate the doors will be closed, and the vote will be by the majority of the members present.

94. The vote in accordance with Article 93 will be proclaimed by the President with open doors.

95. No one is allowed to wear arms, either at the sittings or within the building where the Assembly is being held. No military guard or armed force whatever can be placed either at the doors of the Assembly Hall or within the building, or anywhere in the vicinity of the building, unless the Assembly itself demand it by majority of vote.

96. Within doors the Assembly has a police of its own, which is under the orders of the President.

97. The Assembly determines the order of its own proceedings.

Chapter XV.—*The Duties of the National Assembly.*

98. The duties of the National Assembly are:—

(1.) To consider all proposed laws, as stated in Article 48.

(2.) To consider Bills for State loans; for the increase, reduction, or imposition of taxes, customs, or duties; also their application, and the manner of their collection.

(3.) To consider the yearly budget of expenditure and revenue.

(4.) To examine the accounts of expenditure and receipt.

(5.) To raise questions in matters for which the Ministers are responsible.

99. The Assembly has the right of receiving all petitions whatever, and of laying them before the Ministers they may concern. The Ministers, when questioned by the Assembly, are bound to furnish explanation.

100. The members of the Assembly have the right of putting questions to the Government, and the Ministers whom such questions concern are bound to answer accordingly.

Chapter XVI.—*The order in which Projects and Bills are to be presented and considered.*

101. Projects of Laws and Bills which have to be submitted to the consideration of the National Assembly are presented by the Ministers concerned, on order of the Prince.

102. The National Assembly may refer to the Prince any modification or addition in the framing of a new law; but the Prince alone can by his order cause Projects of Laws to be submitted to the Assembly.

103. The Government may withdraw any Project of a Law or a Bill already presented to the Assembly if it has not yet been voted on.

104. The National Assembly may alter and add to the Projects presented.

105. Should the Government not approve of these changes and additions, it may either withdraw its proposal altogether, or introduce it a second time in its original form, but with explanations and notes, or with fresh changes and additions as may seem expedient to the Government itself.

106. Should the Assembly reject the proposed Law in block, the Government cannot reintroduce it in its original form before the same Assembly that has rejected it. Such a Project can only be presented before another National Assembly; for instance, the next one.

107. Voting on a proposed Law or Bill presented to the Assembly can only take place at a sitting where at least half the members are present.

108. Members of the Assembly must vote in person, publicly, and by word of mouth. Secret voting may, however, be resorted to if at least half the members demand it.

109. The Assembly decides by majority of votes.

110. Should the votes on either side be equal, the Project or Bill is to be regarded as thrown out.

111. Whatever resolution the Assembly may present to the Prince for confirmation must be confirmed by him during the sittings of the same Assembly.

Chapter XVII.—*The Budget.*

112. The Budget is submitted to the National Assembly every year for consideration.

113. As soon as the Budget has been voted by the Assembly, it is to be presented to the Prince for confirmation.

114. The National Assembly must discuss the Budget article by article; and should it alter or reject any, it is bound to declare its reasons for doing so.

115. Should it so happen that unavoidable expenses, not admitting of delay, should have to be incurred at a time when the Assembly cannot possibly be convoked, the Budget of the preceding year remains in force on the responsibility of the Ministers, till their subsequent arrangements have been confirmed by the National Assembly on its first sitting.

Chapter XVIII.—*State Loans.*

116. No loan can be made without the consent of the National Assembly.

117. Should it be necessary for the State to incur a loan for the purpose of covering extraordinary expenses not admitting of delay, the National Assembly must be immediately convoked.

118. Should circumstances render the convocation of the Assembly difficult, the Prince may, on the request of the Ministerial Council, and with the consent of the Council of State, decide upon incurring a loan, on condition of its being accepted and passed by the next National Assembly.

119. For matters not provided against by the Budget, and subject to the conditions stated in Article 118, the Prince may cause special allowances to be made from the Treasury; but the total of such expenditure cannot exceed (——) thousand francs.

Chapter XIX.—*How the National Assembly is convoked.*

120. The Prince convokes the Assembly once every year, in (——) month, and for (——) period; but an extraordinary summons may be issued should urgent affairs require it.

121. The place of meeting, as also the date alluded to in Article 120 for the convocation of the Assembly, are stated in the summons issued by the Prince.

122. The sessions of the Assembly may be prolonged beyond their ordinary period by mutual agreement between the Prince and the Assembly.

123. The Assembly is opened and closed by the Prince, either in person, or by some one whom he has specially empowered for the occasion to act in his place.

124. Before the opening of the Assembly all the members present, each according to the dictates of his creed, simultaneously make oath as follows:—

"I swear, in the name of God Most High, to maintain and defend the Constitution, to do my duty in the Assembly, and to have always before my eyes the general welfare of the nation and the Prince, according to the best of my understanding and conscience. So help me God. Amen."

125. Ecclesiastical members do not take the oath, but make a public affirmation that they will act in everything according to their conscience, and that they will keep steadily before their eyes the general good of the State and of the Prince.

126. In the opening Address made by the Prince to the Assembly, the general position of State affairs is described, and mention is made of the Projects and Bills which are to be laid before the Assembly for its consideration.

127. The Assembly presents an Address to the Prince in answer to his Speech.

128. The Prince may, after convoking the Assembly, prorogue the opening beyond the day at first fixed for that purpose; but such prorogation must not exceed two months. During the session itself a further prorogation may take place, but only by the consent of the Assembly itself.

129. The Prince has power to dissolve the Assembly, and to order a new election of national representatives.

130. Not more than four months must intervene between the dissolution of the Assembly and the new elections, and not more than six between the dissolution of the old Assembly and the opening of the new.

131. The members of the National Assembly cannot hold session without having been duly convoked thereto by the Prince; nor can they hold sitting after that the Assembly has been prorogued, or closed, or dissolved.

132. Such members of the National Assembly as do not live in the same place where the sittings are held, will receive a daily allowance, besides travelling expenses for going and coming. The amount of these allowances will be determined by a special regulation.

Chapter XX.—*The Great National Assembly.*

Part I.—*Duties of the Great National Assembly.*

133. The Great National Assembly can be convoked by the Prince, or by the Regency, or by the Ministerial Council.

134. The Prince may convoke the Great National Assembly,

(1.) To consider a question of ceding or exchanging any portion of the territory of the Principality. A question of this nature is decided by a majority of votes among the members actually present in the Assembly.

(2.) To change or modify the Constitution. This requires a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members actually present for its decision.

135. The Regency can convoke the Great National Assembly solely for the purpose of considering a proposed cession or exchange of any portion of the territory of the Principality. A decision of this nature requires a majority of votes among the members actually present in the Assembly.

136. The Ministerial Council can convoke the Great National Assembly—

(1.) For the election of a new Prince, should the late reigning Prince have died without heir. The election will go by a majority of two-thirds among the votes of the members present at the Assembly.

(2.) For the election of Regents when the heir of the throne is a minor. This election is by majority of votes of the members present at the Assembly.

Part II.—*The Composition of the Great National Assembly.*

137. The Great National Assembly is composed of the complete Ordinary National Assembly, with the additions following:—

(1.) Those of the undermentioned classes who are not included in the composition of the National Assembly.

(*a.*) Bishops, and the Directors of Eparchies which have no Bishops. See Article 79, *a.*

(*b.*) Presidents and members of the Supreme Court of Justice. See Article 79, *b.*

(*c.*) Presidents of the District and Commercial Tribunals. Article 79, *c.*

(2.) Elective representatives, in double the number of those chosen to the Ordinary National Assembly. Article 79, *d.*

The manner of election remains the same.

138. The President, Vice-President, and the requisite number of Secretaries are chosen by the Assembly itself from among its own members. Up to the moment of their election, the Bulgarian Exarch, or his representative, presides.

139. Three topics only (see Articles 134-136) can be considered by the Great National Assembly, and for these alone can it be constitutionally convoked. As soon as it has come to a decision on one or all of these, it is closed.

140. Articles 80, 83-85, 86-97, 107, 108, 124, and 125 of this Programme regard the Great National Assembly.

Chapter XXI.—*The Chief Organs of Government.*

141. The chief organs of Government are—

(1.) The Council of State.

(2.) The Ministerial Council.

(3.) The Ministries.

Part I.—*The Formation of the Council of State.*

142. The Council of State is formed partly of persons nominated by the Prince, and partly of persons elected by the National Assembly.

143. The members nominated by the Prince must not be less than seven, nor more than eleven.

144. The number of members elected by the National Assembly is determined by

the number of Government districts, but in such manner that there must be two members for each district.

145. The National Assembly elects by majority of votes these persons from among its own members. Their term of office is two years.

146. The Prince selects the President and the Vice-President of the Council from among the persons mentioned in Article 143.

147. The Council of State has a special chancellary of its own, under the direction of the Secretary of State.

Part II.—*Duties of the Council of State.*

148. The Council of State has—

(1.) To give its opinion on all matters laid before it by the Government.

(2.) To consider all Projects of Law which are to be submitted to the National Assembly, before they have been so submitted.

(3.) To act as final Court of Appeal from the verdicts of the District Tribunals, in causes of private individuals *c.* the Treasury, or the reverse.

(4.) To act as Supreme Court in causes pending between Government offices or officials.

(5.) To prosecute offenders belonging to the Judiciary Department.

(6.) To give final award in cases of the surrender of private property in behalf of the State, or of public utility.

(7.) To consider State loans and extraordinary expenditures from the Budget, in the cases specified by Articles 115 and 116.

(8.) To ratify extraordinary expenditures not comprised in the Budget, from the surplus State credit.

(9.) To consider loans for the provinces, districts, communities, and towns.

(10.) To consider whatever regards the alienation of real property belonging to provinces, districts, communities, and towns, and to decide for or against such alienation.

(11.) To condone uncollected taxes and duties where the collection of such is practically impossible.

(12.) To look into the accounts of the Exchequer, which last is bound to lay before the Council of State, on its demand, full details of the receipts and expenditure of the Budget.

(13.) To give notice to the Prince of any violation whatever of the Constitution.

Part III.—*The Ministerial Council, the Ministers, and those connected with them.*

149. The executive power belongs, under the high supervision of the Prince (Article 11), to the Ministers and their Council.

150. The Ministerial Council is composed of all the Ministers, one of whom, nominated by the Prince, acts as President.

151. Besides the ordinary conduct of affairs, the Ministerial Council has the rights, and is charged with the duties, enumerated below.

(1.) Should the Prince die without an heir, the Ministerial Council takes upon itself the administration of the Principality; and, within a month's space, convokes the Great National Assembly for the election of a new Prince.

(2.) Should the Prince not have appointed a Regency before death, the Ministerial Council will also take in hand the administration of the Principality. But the Great National Assembly must be summoned for the nomination of a Regency within a month.

(3.) Should the Dowager Princess be with child at the time of the Prince's death, in such case the administration of the Principality is left to the Ministerial Council till the birth of the child.

(4.) Should any of the Regents die, it is the duty of the Ministerial Council to convoke the Great National Assembly for the nomination of a new Regent in place of the deceased within a month, according to Regulation 2.

(5.) When the Ministerial Council, in virtue of the cases enumerated in 1-4 of this Article, takes on itself the administration of the Principality, it must announce its so doing to the people by Proclamation.

(6.) No change of Ministers can take place during the time that the Ministerial Council governs the Principality.

(7.) During the time that the Ministerial Council governs the Principality its members receive only their ordinary Ministerial salary.

152. The Ministers are collectively responsible to the Prince and the National Assembly for all the general measures they take in common; and are also individually responsible for whatever they do, each one in the administration of his own Department.

154. Every official act signed by the Prince must also be signed either by all the Ministers in common, or by the Minister specially concerned in the matter, according to its nature.

155. The National Assembly may prosecute the Ministers for high treason, committed against the country, the Prince, or the Constitution; for breach of trust, and for sacrificing the good of the Principality to their personal interests.

156. A Bill for the prosecution of a Minister must contain in writing and separately every head of the charge; and must be signed by at least members of the National Assembly.

157. The actual prosecution of a Minister can only be determined by a majority of two-thirds of the members present voting to that effect.

158. A Minister is tried by a Special Tribunal of State, the formation of which is regulated by proper Ordinance.

159. In the case of a Minister the Prince can only exercise the prerogative of pardon by the consent of the National Assembly.

160. The Ministries, as the highest organs of Government, have in charge the execution of the laws.

161. There are seven Ministries:—

(1.) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of Public Worship.
(2.) The Ministry of the Interior.
(3.) The Ministry of National Education.
(4.) The Ministry of Finance.
(5.) The Ministry of Public Works and Agriculture.
(6.) The Ministry of Justice.
(7.) The Ministry of War.

162. Each Ministerial Department is headed by a Minister.

163. The Prince has the right of appointment to all Government posts.

164. Every one appointed to an official post must take an oath of fidelity to the Prince and to the Constitution.

165. Every official is responsible for the acts done in virtue of his office.

166. Officials appointed by Government have right to pension; the regulations determining it will be specified by a proper Ordinance.

Chapter XXII.—*The manner of changing or revising the Constitution itself.*

167. Proposals for a change or revision of the Constitution are made in the same manner as those regarding the laws. (Articles 98, 99.)

168. Proposals of the kind mentioned in Article 167 are considered as approved if voted by a majority of more than two-thirds of all the members present at the Assembly.

169. For the ultimate consideration of the proposals indicated in Article 167, the Great National Assembly has to be convoked; and with it rests the decision regarding all change of revision of the Constitution by a majority of two-thirds.

170. The present Constitution has force for five years; after the expiration of which term it must be brought under revision, according to the above Article 169.

Annex.

Special Regulations regarding the Election of the first Prince.

1. Will be members of the National Assembly for the election of a Prince—

(*a.*) The representatives of the Upper Bulgarian Clergy: that is to say, the Exarch, the Bishops, and the Directors of the Eparchies;

(*b.*) The Bulgarian-born Provincial Governors, and the Bulgarian Vice-Governors, who are provisionally under Russian Governors;

(*c.*) The Presidents of the Provincial, District, and Commercial Tribunals; as also the President and the members of the Supreme Court of Justice;

(*d.*) The Presidents of the Provincial, District, and Municipal Administrative Councils;

(*e.*) The representatives specially elected for the occasion; these are six for every provincial centre, and eighteen for every district. The election of the representatives is made in the same manner as that followed for the District Tribunals, according to the Law of Election of the 24th August, 1878.

2. The Bulgarian Exarch is President of the Assembly; should he be absent, he is replaced by the Senior Bishop.

3. When three-fourths of all the members are present, the Assembly may proceed to the election of the Prince. Two-thirds of the votes of the members actually present, if given to one person, suffice for his election as Prince.

4. The person elected, on accepting the Princely dignity, takes oath, in the presence of the identical National Assembly by which he was elected, as prescribed by Article 52 of the Programme for an Organic Law, and announces to all the nation his accession to the Throne by Proclamation.

No. 237.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 23. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnova, March 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, owing to a certain slowness, perhaps not wholly unintentional, in the opening proceedings of the Assembly, it is probable that the actual discussion of the Organic Law will not commence till after the middle of next week.

Popular agitation continues, and is kept up by disquieting news from outside, especially from the Adrianople district, and in connection with the evacuation already commenced there by the Russian troops. Correct or not, the news equally answers the purpose of those who diffuse it, by maintaining uneasiness, suspicion, and excitement. Yet I observe with satisfaction that the more extravagant proposals of the extreme Ultras—that, for instance, of at once breaking up the Assembly—have fallen into discredit, and that more moderate counsels seem likely to prevail. According to these the frontier question, though touched on in the House, is not to be discussed there, and any address or petition on the subject is to be drawn up and presented outside. What precise form this idea, the realization of which is, it appears, deferred for some days, yet will take is not certain. Meanwhile the Bulgarian Prelates here assembled, and other leading men among the notables, continue to assure me that they will employ their whole influence in calming the excitement and obviating disorder and illegality. It is, however, certain that the diversity of opinion between the Ultras and the Moderates regards the means solely, not the ends, as also that of these ends the incorporation of East Roumelia is the chief. And hence, as is evident, the extremely critical nature of the situation; since any serious disturbance or even any highly unpopular measure taken south of the Balkans may, at the present moment, wholly upset the equilibrium in Bulgaria itself, and unite Moderates and Ultras alike in one common and dangerous outcry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 238.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 10.)

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Budu-Pesth, March 2, 1879.*

IN the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation yesterday, Count Andrassy was questioned as to the relations of the Empire with Roumania.

His Excellency explained that full liberty of action had been left to all the Powers as regarded the recognition of Roumania as an independent Principality; and that, consequently, several of the Powers had suspended the act of recognition until Roumania should satisfy the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin as to religious freedom.

The proximity of the Principality, and still more the number of Austro-Hungarian subjects residing in it, had, however, imposed a different policy on this Empire. The commercial relations between the two countries were so close, and their common interests so intimately connected, that it had been found expedient to accredit a Minister at Bucharest without any further delay. Russia had set the example, and there were many very evident reasons why Austria-Hungary should not lose time in securing to herself the means of exercising her legitimate influence in the Principality.

It seemed to Count Andrassy that this measure would be very serviceable in ensuring the thorough execution of the Treaty, more particularly as the Roumanian Government had more than once expressed anxiety to have the moral support of the neighbouring Power. At the same time, his Excellency had no idea of contesting the point of view from which other Powers regarded the question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 239.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 10.)

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Budu-Pesth, March 3, 1879.*

THE messenger Leeds brought me last night your private letter, written yesterday morning, and inclosing one for Count Andrassy. Finding that his Excellency would have to attend the sitting of the Austrian Delegation this morning, and that there was therefore little chance of his having leisure to see me at Buda, I went to Baron Orczy, and gave him the letter, stating that I had been informed by your Excellency that it related to the difficulties connected with the conclusion of the Convention between Austria-Hungary and the Porte, which for some time past Count Zichy has been trying to negotiate at Constantinople.

Baron Orczy said that he was convinced that Count Andrassy would not make any concession on either of the four points adverted to in your letter; in fact, his Excellency had already telegraphed to Count Zichy not to abate the pretensions of the Government in the slightest degree. The Baron explained that this Government is convinced that no concession would avail to induce the Porte to sign the Convention, and that all the obstacles raised were simply pretexts invented to delay the arrangement, in the hope that the Parliamentary opposition in Austria and Hungary would eventually turn Count Andrassy and the Stremayer and Tisza Governments out of office altogether.

Later in the day Baron Orczy wrote to tell me that Count Andrassy would send a reply direct to your Excellency, and that he hoped you would come down to Buda-Pesth and discuss the matter with him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 240.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 10.)

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Budu-Pesth, March 4, 1879.*

THE discussion in the Delegations' Committees of the Bills relating to the costs of occupation has, upon several occasions, provoked remarks upon the nature of the administration of the two provinces, and the form which that administration will eventually take.

Count Andrassy has been careful to explain that orders had been given to the Duke of Wurtemburg, the Commander-in-chief of the occupying forces, to make as much use as possible of former employés. A certain number of experienced officials, chiefly Croats and Slavonians, speaking the vernacular, have been sent into Bosnia and the Herzegovina; but they are not numerous, and it is intended that they shall be employed in organizing the administrative staff out of the pre-existing material.

The Minister of War has had to defend, chiefly in the Austrian Delegation,

the military conduct of the occupation, the preparations for which have been attacked as insufficient, and as having therefore caused unnecessary loss of life and money. Dr. Sturm tried to carry a resolution expressing the regret of the Delegation at the inadequacy of the military measures, but did not succeed in his attempt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Pesth, March 6, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship will learn from the report of Baron Orczy's language, given by Mr. Monson in his despatch to me (No. 16), that the Austrian-Hungarian Government have taken up the impression that the Porte was delaying the conclusion of the Treaty respecting the Novi-Bazar district in hopes of the success of the efforts of the Parliamentary opposition to turn out the Austrian and Hungarian Governments.

If such is the case, Carathéodory Pasha must have entirely changed his opinions since he left Vienna, when he repeatedly declared to me that, however great might be the grounds of complaint against Count Andrassy, he had seen enough here to convince him that his Excellency was more favourably inclined towards Turkey than any of those likely to be his successor would be, and that his fall would therefore be a misfortune.

Sir Henry Layard, to whom I communicated the suspicions of the Austrian Government, is convinced of their being altogether groundless, and the hesitation of the Porte may safely be attributed to a suspicion of the ulterior designs of Austria without going further to find a reason for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241 A.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, March 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of this day, I have the honour to inclose herewith an abstract of Count Andrassy's speech to the Austrian Delegation with regard to the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 241 A.

Abstract of Speech of Count Andrassy to the Austrian Delegations at Pesth, March 5, 1879.

AFTER declining to answer a question as to the future of the occupied provinces, Count Andrassy stated, in answer to another as to the intention of the Government to occupy more territory, that there was no question of Austria occupying the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, but merely of keeping garrisons in certain parts of it without disturbing the Turkish Administration. This right was hers by the Treaty of Berlin, and there was no question of abandoning it, but the Government saw no cause at the present moment to hasten the exercise of this right. He added, that the old frontiers of the sandjak extend more than a mile beyond Mitrovitza.

If Austria has to carry out her task, she will do so, with the goodwill of Turkey.

He repeats that the Berlin Treaty is the basis of the Government action, though Russia may have made representations to the Powers on questions of frontier; no Power, so far as he knew, had made any proposal for a modification of any one provision of the Berlin Treaty, and certainly any such proposal, if made, would be refused in every quarter.

As to a special question with respect to Arab-Tabia, on the Dobrudscha-Bulgarian frontier, there was certainly a proposal for referring it to a Conference of Ambassadors.

The question of the Governor for East Roumelia has given rise to discussion, but no formal proposal has been made as to any further limitation of the choice than that laid down by the Treaty of Berlin, viz., that he should be a Christian.

The Berlin Treaty stated that the Balkans were the frontier between Roumelia and Bulgaria; the Bulgarians lay claim to the slopes of this chain of mountains.

This is a question for the Delimitation Commissioners.

There is no question, he repeats, either of a revision of the Berlin Treaty or of a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin.

No. 241 B.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

AS I was convinced that Count Andrassy imagined Her Majesty's Government to agree with him in holding that under the Treaty of Berlin the Russian Government were bound to have completed the evacuation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia by the 3rd May, I last night communicated to him your Lordship's telegram to me of the 4th instant.

He did not conceal the surprise with which he received, what he said was the first intimation, that the Treaty could be read in a sense different from that which he had himself put upon it.

Upon referring to the text he declared his inability to perceive how it could mean anything than that by the expiration of nine months from the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin the occupation ought to have come entirely to an end.

Three months more, that is to the 3rd August, had been allowed for the passage of the retiring troops through Roumania, but if the evacuation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia were not to commence till the 3rd May it would probably not be completed much before the additional period assigned to it in the Principality.

It appeared to him quite clear that under the Treaty the evacuation should commence so as to ensure its being at least in the main concluded by the day fixed for its extreme duration.

This was his own very decided opinion, but the views of Her Majesty's Government were entitled to every respect and consideration, and he would not say more till he had consulted the Emperor, who had understood, as he did, that the whole of the Russian troops would be withdrawn by the beginning of May.

I told his Excellency that I had had an opportunity of speaking on the subject with Sir Henry Layard, who took the same view of the question as Her Majesty's Government without being previously acquainted with it, and who had also told me that he believed it to be shared by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241 C.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

THE interval between my arrival at Vienna and the departure of the messenger is so short that I must beg your Lordship to excuse the necessary incompleteness of my reports on the conversation that I had last night at Pesth with Count Andrassy.

The first subject touched upon was the Convention respecting the Novi-Bazar district and the four points upon which Mr. Malet reported the chief difficulty to lie.

Count Andrassy began at once to speak of the persistence of the Porte in endeavouring to have the word "temporary" applied to the occupation, and declared, as before, that he would never hear of it.

The word was not to be found in the Treaty of Berlin, and if it were introduced into the Convention it would probably be the cause of his being accused of deception at some future period

With regard to the manner in which the sovereignty of the Sultan was to be recognised, he was ready to defer to the wishes of the Porte by using, as it proposes, the words "ne portant aucune atteinte;" but this was on condition of the Porte's adhering to the whole of the rest of what was called the "projet rectifié," as agreed to by Caratheodory Pasha while he was at Vienna, and in which the words above cited occurred.

With regard to the third point respecting the treatment of Bosnians and Herzegovinians, or Ottoman subjects, when not in those provinces, he said he had no objection to it in principle, and would be ready to come to a separate arrangement in reference to it, but it involved many questions of detail that could not be dealt with in a single Article of a Convention, and which would, moreover, require examination and consideration.

The fourth proposal of the Porte for fixing the points to be occupied and the strength of the garrisons was not practicable, as neither the one nor the other could be determined beforehand, but must both be entirely dependent upon the circumstances that may arise.

He neither asks for more nor will he be satisfied with less than what was decided at Berlin, and recorded in the Treaty under which Austria received the right to hold garrisons and maintain the communications in the whole Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, and the Convention must not contain any abandonment of that right; but, at the same time, he had not the slightest intention of pushing it to an extreme, or of occupying at present Mitrovitza, Novi-Bazar, or Berani.

The intention, he said, was to send garrisons to three places in the northern part of the "enclave" not very much in advance of the present Austrian positions, and I understood them to be Plevlje, Priepolge, and Bjelopolje.

A further advance would be costly and unprofitable, whereas, by confining the garrisons to the three places mentioned, the occupying force in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, which now amounts to 90,000 men, could at once be reduced to 50,000, if the Convention was signed.

If aggression on Turkey were hereafter to be made or threatened from Servia or Montenegro, it might become necessary to have garrisons in places more to the south, where their presence alongside the Sultan's troops would afford the best security for His Majesty's dominions, but he declared that except upon such an emergency the measure was not contemplated.

His Excellency trusts that your Lordship will continue the efforts, for which he feels deeply grateful, to induce the Porte not to place further difficulties in the way of the Convention, which, as it was explained to me, does not appear to contain anything in excess of what Austria-Hungary may fairly claim under the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241 D.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 135. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to me last night about a Circular despatch communicated to him by M. de Novikow, which he presumes your Lordship will also have received, expressing the hope of the Russian Government that the different Cabinets would consent to the southern frontier of Bulgaria being drawn so as to give that Principality some of the slopes of the Balkans, which are necessary for its defence against Turkey, instead of being carried along the summits of the mountains.

Count Andrassy understands the proposal to be favourably regarded by the German Government, but he will, he says, answer that he cannot consent to what is, in fact, an alteration of the decisions deliberately come to at Berlin.

A statement contained in this despatch that Prince Gortchacow hoped that the Powers would now approach this question with greater calmness and impartiality than they had shown at Berlin, was designated by Count Andrassy as offensive and insolent.

He will, he says, answer that the details of the demarcation must be decided by the Commissioners upon the basis of the terms of the Treaty, and that their

decisions must be settled by the votes of a majority, no other way of terminating these questions being practicable.

He would be glad to be informed of the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the Russian proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241 E.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 7, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to Count Andrassy a despatch from his Government, urging that an attempt should be made to come to an unanimous agreement upon the question of the frontier between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria near Silistria, and declaring that if this is not done Russia repudiates all responsibility for the consequences that will occur when the Bulgarians find their rights set aside, as they no doubt will be, by the Roumanians.

Count Andrassy observed to me that as no mode is indicated for arriving at this unanimity, he presumes the Russian Government to mean that the six are to give way to the one which differs from them, and that he is only confirmed by this communication in his conviction, that the only way of having this and similar questions settled is by adopting the principles of majorities.

He states that the necessity for this had even been experienced at Berlin, where a divergence of the views of Her Majesty's and the Russian Plenipotentiaries upon a frontier question had to be decided in that manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241 F.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 138. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 2, 1879.*

PRINCE BISMARCK having responded to my request for an audience for Lord Dufferin by giving his Lordship and Lady Dufferin an exceptionally cordial reception, I took an opportunity of thanking him for his courtesy.

He replied that he had been glad to demonstrate his feeling of respect for the Sovereign of a great and friendly nation, and of friendship for Her Majesty's Government. Lord Dufferin appeared to him to be a most amiable and gifted Representative of England, and he most earnestly hoped that the success of his important mission to Russia might be complete and lasting. Lord Dufferin's reception at St. Petersburgh would be a first symptom of Russia's future policy. If peace was intended, his reception would be warm and demonstrative, and there was every reason to think that Russia was weary of war, and felt once more the want of rest and peace. The expression of "Russia" was at present a vague expression, for Russia no longer meant the "Czar," nor did it mean "Gortchacow," nor did it mean the present Ministers.

The Czar's authority was not what it used to be; he could no longer enforce obedience, nor had he the moral courage to dismiss his unruly Agents, beginning by Prince Gortchacow who carried on a foreign policy of his own, apart from M. de Giers, who was the Czar's head Clerk for Foreign Affairs, with little or no authority.

Lord Dufferin would find it difficult to choose between the statements of Gortchacow and Giers, which were now often at variance.

Perhaps the two Ministers who had most influence at present were Miliutine and Gregh, the Ministers of War and of Finance; and as those two Departments must, of necessity, be favourable to peace, it was to be hoped that the Czar would listen more to them than to the Empress, the Grand Dukes, the Chancellor, and other Panslavist advice.

The plague was also an argument for peace; Governments would hesitate to contribute to its propagation by bringing healthy and diseased armies into contact.

I said that the faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin was, after all, the real guarantee of peace, and he (Prince Bismarck) more than any other statesman could, by his great personal influence, persuade his Russian friends to abstain from attempting the Couza trick in Roumelia and Bulgaria, which England, in the interest of the independence of Turkey, must resist with every means in her power. Her Majesty's Government had made concessions to Russia, in concert with the Powers of Europe, to secure the independence and prolong the existence of the Turkish Empire, and Her Majesty's Government would never permit the results achieved, and the security acquired for the independence of Turkey by the Powers in Congress assembled at Berlin, to be conjured away by the trickeries of subordinate Russian Agents.

Prince Bismarck replied with some warmth, that he entirely shared the feelings I had expressed, and that he was the first to feel and acknowledge that Her Majesty's Government, after having conceded Bessarabia and Batoum to Russia in exchange for the Balkan line, could not and ought not to yield a jot to Russian intrigue in a matter to which the people of England attached so much importance.

How, I asked, would he propose to enforce the stipulations of the Treaty if, after the departure of the Russian authorities, the Couza trick was attempted by their secret agents, and that Rustem Pasha, the Governor-General, had not the power to resist their intrigues?

Prince Bismarck replied that in his opinion the employment of Turkish troops should be allowed for the maintenance of order, if a revolution broke out in East Roumelia.

He shared the misgivings and objections of M. Waddington in regard to a mixed occupation, and could not give the proposal his support, because he felt convinced that it would lead to serious trouble in Europe.

I said that a Turkish occupation might lead to atrocities, which a mixed European garrison alone could prevent.

Prince Bismarck said that if foreign forces became indispensable, he would suggest that Austria should be invited to undertake the occupation of Eastern Roumelia. In saying so, he did not even know whether Austria would be willing to undertake the task, and before making the suggestion he would instruct Prince Reuss to sound Count Andrassy very confidentially, when a favourable opportunity occurred, as to whether he would be willing to entertain such a proposal or not.

I said that I doubted whether Austria would undertake an occupation without us, or whether we could consent to an Austrian occupation of Turkish territory without taking part in it ourselves for obvious reasons.

Prince Bismarck agreed that Austria might object to be left alone, with Turkey on one side and Russia on the other; but he knew for certain, and heartily rejoiced to know, that Her Majesty's Government could reckon on the cordial and powerful co-operation of Austria if they resolved on sending a contingent to Turkey.

The cordial understanding now happily existing between Austria and England was the more welcome to him, since the sympathies of Germany for Austria had so powerfully increased, in consequence of Count Andrassy's friendly policy towards Germany.

Prince Bismarck then turned the conversation to subjects of "etiquette," which, as Doyen of the Diplomatic Body, he asked me to regulate; after which I took my leave of His Serene Highness.

The impression left on my mind by his conversation is that Prince Bismarck is again seeking to promote the extension of Austrian influence and authority over European Turkey, as he has done ever since the formation of the "Drei Kaiserbund."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 241 G.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 139. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 2, 1879.

IN a conversation I had to-day with Bismarck, his Highness expressed the aversion he felt for the Roumanians in language too violent to be placed on record in a despatch.

He accused them of dishonesty in regard to the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty, of arrogance towards Russia, and of insolence towards Germany, and deplored that

they were not within his reach, so as to administer the whipping to them they so richly deserved.

I made some fruitless attempts to get him to speak more calmly about the conditions on which he would be prepared to recognize their independence, but he would not consider the subject at all, and declared that he would have nothing to do with the Roumanians until they learnt how to behave themselves honestly and respectfully towards Germany.

Other persons besides myself have been struck by the excessive hostility of Prince Bismarck toward them, but I have not yet found anyone able to account for it.

I suspect, however, that the Roumanian Railway question has something to do with it, about which I shall make inquiry and report to your Lordship as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 241 H.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 140. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 2, 1879.

PRINCE BISMARCK told me to-day that he had received a confidential Report from Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the cession of territory the Porte proposed to make to Greece in virtue of the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin.

The Turkish proposal appeared to him to be "simply ridiculous," and he should therefore support any counter-proposition France might make in regard to the rectification of the Greek frontier, not so much from any love of Greece as from a desire to give France what national satisfaction he could after the blows he had been compelled to inflict on her in 1870.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 241 I.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 149. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 8, 1879.

I HAVE had some conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 113A of the 4th instant, and his Excellency tells me that he has written to Count Münster to explain the principle on which the German Government is ready to recognize the independence of Servia without recognizing the independence of Roumania.

His Excellency said that Prince Bismarck earnestly hoped that your Lordship would share the views of the German Government, and would, together with that of France, consent to recognize the independence of Servia, who had behaved in an honest and straightforward way respecting the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and thereby give a lesson to Roumania, who had sought by dishonest subterfuges and tricks to befool the Contracting Powers and evade the obligation imposed upon her by the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Bismarck, his Excellency said, would be sincerely thankful if your Lordship could agree with him in regard to the speedy recognition of Servia.

In regard to Roumania, his Excellency said that he was trying to persuade the Roumanian Government to insert the original text of Article XLIV of the Treaty into the new law they would have to make respecting religious liberty, which would facilitate the recognition of their independence by Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 242.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 152. Secret.)
Berlin, March 8, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 139, Secret, of the 2nd instant, I mentioned to your Lordship the suspicion I entertained that Prince Bismarck's extraordinary hostility towards the Roumanians might partly be due to the Railway question. My suspicion has been fully confirmed.

Germany holds between 300,000,000 and 400,000,000 marks of Roumanian railway stock. Your Lordship will recollect that when the Strousberg Railway bubble burst the German Emperor ordered the bankers (Hanseman and Bleichröder) to concert measures with a view of saving German interests.

His Majesty rewarded their exertions by making them Barons. Since then the Roumanian railways have been under German supervision, and it appears that the Roumanians have not shown the German Emperor and Prince Bismarck that amount of respect and gratitude due for their action in the matter, and have treated the German agents connected with the Bleichröder and Hanseman banks in a manner most offensive to the German Government.

The object of the Roumanians, who want to buy their railways from Germany, is to get them as cheap as possible; and they have sought to attain their object by assuming towards the German agents in Roumania belonging to the above-named banks, and who are all of the Hebrew faith, a bullying tone which they would not have ventured upon had those agents been so-called Christian subjects of the German Emperor.

Prince Bismarck, to mark his displeasure with the Roumanians, has instructed the bankers, Bleichröder and Hanseman, to suspend their negotiations for the sale of the Roumanian railways to the Roumanians, which they hoped to purchase out of the proceeds of the sale of their tobacco monopoly to an English Company, and to offer those railways secretly both to the Russian and to the Austrian Governments.

Both Governments, I am informed, are entertaining the offer, as both have an equal interest to exclude the other's influence from Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 243.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 158. Confidential.)
Berlin, March 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 121 of the 5th instant, inclosing three Circulars from Prince Gortchacow of the 8th and 9th of February on the subject of the boundary between Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha.

2. Of the Balkan line; and,

3. Of the frontier along the right bank of the Danube.

As I have already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship these Circulars will obtain the general support of the German Government, more especially the first and third; but the second, which reopens the question of the Balkan frontier, appeared to me to involve a principle so contrary to the faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin, that I thought it would be as well to submit my personal impression both to the German Chancellor and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to ask their opinion upon it.

Both, while reserving their opinion did not dissent from mine.

M. de Bülow said he had received it from the Russian Ambassador *ad referendum*, and would submit it to the Emperor and to the Chancellor.

Prince Bismarck said that he had directed that it should be placed *ad acta* until the other High Contracting Powers had exchanged their views upon it.

I conclude from this that the German Government will not support the second

Russian Circular respecting the Balkan line of frontier, if pressed by Russia to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 244.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 9, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador, who returned from Adrianople on Friday evening, informed Count Zichy that the evacuation was proceeding satisfactorily, and that it would be completed by the 20th instant. He said that no conflict [?] had taken place. About 20,000 Bulgarians had emigrated to Eastern Roumelia, and 60,000 more would follow.

No. 245.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 9, 1879.

CHAPTER 9, the Judicial Organization, was passed to-day *en bloc*.

I hope General Dickson and French Military Attaché are coming to terms with the Russians about militia and gendarmerie, and I really think we shall have ended by end of the month sufficiently to go to Constantinople for the definitive reading. I hope by that time that the other projects to be submitted to us will be ready.

I mentioned to Austrian Commissioner the idea set forth in my telegram of to-day, and he approves it. Assim Pasha thinks it might lead to some arrangement.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 246.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 9, 1879.

TELEGRAM received from Haskeui last night describing violent conduct of the inhabitants towards M. Schmidt.

General Stolipine was to send Baron Hubsch there this morning.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 247.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 9, 1879.

THE Emperor is much irritated at the continued presence of our fleet. It would have a good effect if I could announce on Tuesday anything relative to its movements. Prince Gortchacow again to-day inveighed against Rustem Pasha. Said he had applied for Embassy at Rome, and did not want to go to Roumelia. That he would have preferred Raouf Pasha to any Turk. He next contended that the Turks could not garrison Balkans until delimitation was complete, and suggested that before the Governor-General absolutely called in the troops, application should be made for the consent of the European Cabinets.

I took upon myself to tell him at once that I knew such an idea would not be entertained for a moment. He further suggested that the number of troops in the Balkans should be limited, and located in specified places. I had not thought it advisable for the present to make the application suggested by the Grand Vizier, but the Prince of his own accord incidentally referred to the impossibility of entry of the Turks until the Russians had retired. He refused, though not very decidedly, to leave delimitations to a majority,

but was much stronger in regard to such principle being applied to Silistrian frontier. He assured me that the Roumelians would accept execution of the Treaty submissively, but when I asked him if he could guarantee such a result, he declined doing so. Nevertheless, the interview on the whole was not unsatisfactory. I shall know better on Tuesday what to report about real disposition of this Government. It is not necessary that I should repeat to you my observations in reply.

No. 248.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 10, 1879.*

THE statement made by Count Andrassy to Sir H. Elliot that the German Government will support the Russian proposal for giving Bulgaria some of the southern slopes of the Balkans is incorrect. Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that German Government will adhere strictly to the letter of the Berlin Treaty.

(Above sent to Sir H. Elliot.)

No. 249.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 9, 1879.*

TURKISH Commissioners are under the impression that the British as well as other Embassies gave an assurance that Osman Bey would be allowed to remain at Podgoritza as Consul.

They now refuse to hold any intercourse with Montenegro, and complain bitterly of the false position they have been placed in.

If the asserted assurance was given by the Ambassador, I could endeavour, unsolicited by the Turks, to arrange misunderstanding, but if otherwise it would not be advisable for me to move except at their request.

Feeling created by interruption of intercourse with Montenegro ought not to be allowed to continue.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 250.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs states that he has sent instructions to Turkish Representative at Tirnova to the following effect:—The Porte objects to the 1st and 2nd Articles of the proposed Constitution, since the limits of the Principality are fixed by the Treaty of Berlin. It desires the suppression of the word "vassal," and wishes the State to be designated as under the suzerainty of the Sultan, according to Article 1 of the Treaty. He objects to the word "Treaties" in the 16th Article, and proposes to consent to the right of making Conventions, provided a condition that they be approved by the suzerain Power be added. Finally, it objects to the 18th and 19th Articles, as the Treaty of Berlin does not make the Princely dignity hereditary.

His Excellency said that the Ottoman Representative would be able to effect nothing alone, and he therefore hoped that your Lordship would instruct the English Representative to support these objections.

No. 251.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 176. Very Confidential.)
Constantinople, March 10, 1879.

I TO-DAY pressed the conclusion of the Austrian Convention upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs as urgently as possible. His Excellency told me in secrecy that the recent delay in the negotiations had been occasioned by the Sultan's stopping them, having been persuaded by persons around him that his Plenipotentiaries were yielding too much. As yet the Iradé permitting the resumption of negotiations had not arrived, but he expected it hourly. He begged me not to let Austrian Ambassador know this. He spoke in a more hopeful manner respecting prospect of concluding.

No. 252.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 10, 1879.*

I DO not quite understand nature of Austrian propaganda in Albania, of which the reports are mentioned by Mr. Malet.

They are probably circulated by persons interested in prevention of the Convention and the establishment of good relations between Turkey and Austria.

I am convinced that this Government entertain no design hostile to Turkey, but I cannot be sure that a manifestation of exaggerated distrust by the Porte and the refusal of the Convention might not lead to a very unfortunate state of things.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1879, 1·45 P.M.*

LAYARD dined with Waddington three days ago. French Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed himself in the most absolute terms against any modification of Treaty of Berlin either in respect to European Governor or Balkan garrisons. He stated that he had so instructed his Agents in Turkey, and should renew the instructions in a peremptory form. Desprez was present, and entirely concurred.

No. 254.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1879, 2 P.M.*

IF your Constitution touches the question of appointment of Bishops at all, of which, under existing circumstances, I doubt the necessity, M. Ring's solution seems judicious.

No. 255.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 89 of yesterday, we will carefully consider your suggestions. Do not mention them except to us and to the Embassy, for Schouvaloff is already quoting you as an authority for the statement that the provisions of the Treaty cannot be executed.

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1879, 6·15 P.M.*

YOU may state to Emperor to-morrow, that as we understand the withdrawal of the fleet is a matter in respect to which he has a strong personal wish, Her Majesty's Government have put aside any merely political consideration, and have directed it to return below the Straits.

No. 257.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879, 7 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Malet:—

[See No. 199.]

It is becoming more and more probable that the Turks will not be ready with a sufficient force in time for the evacuation. In that case it will be necessary to fall back on the mixed occupation. It is desirable that the matter should be sufficiently matured before then, to enable us to act on emergency without delay. Pray ask Count Andrassy whether he has formed any ideas with regard to proposed measures.

No. 258.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Dufferin.

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

AS Her Majesty's Government understand that the withdrawal of the British fleet from before Constantinople is a matter in respect to which the Emperor of Russia has a strong personal wish, they have determined, in deference to this feeling on the part of His Imperial Majesty, to waive any merely political considerations, and they have accordingly directed that the squadron shall retire below the Straits of the Dardanelles.

In a telegram which I have this day addressed to your Excellency, I have instructed you to inform the Emperor of this decision on the occasion of the audience which His Imperial Majesty has granted you for to-morrow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 259.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 151.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have seen from the telegram from Mr. Malet of yesterday (No. 165), copy of which has been sent to you, that it is becoming more and more probable that the Turks will not be ready with a sufficient force to keep peace in East Roumelia when the Russian troops evacuate the province. If this should prove to be the case, it will be necessary to fall back on the idea of a mixed occupation. It is desirable that the Governments should be prepared for any contingency, and that the matter should be sufficiently matured before the difficulty arises to enable them to act without delay on an emergency. I should be glad to know the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and I should therefore wish your Excellency to inquire of Count Andrassy whether he has formed any ideas with respect to the measures which it may be advisable to adopt in case of the failure of the Turks to take proper precautions to prevent disturbances.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 259*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 129.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

COUNT MÜNSTER called upon me on the 6th instant, and stated that his Government desired to recognize the independence of the Principality of Servia, inasmuch as it had taken the necessary measures for executing the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin which concern religious liberty. I asked his Excellency whether he was prepared to extend the same measure to Roumania, but he replied that the Roumanians had not yet taken the same steps, and therefore were not entitled on the same ground to recognition. I asked him to let the matter stand over until I had been able to make inquiries, and accordingly our conversation was resumed on Saturday the 8th. I then informed his Excellency that according to my information, the Servian Legislature had passed a Bill through all its stages for summoning the Skouptchina, whose assent was necessary to such an alteration of the Constitution as was involved by the proposed measures of religious liberty. I said that Her Majesty's Government were perfectly ready to accept this as a sufficient pledge of the willingness of Servia to conform herself to the Treaty of Berlin, but it must be on the understanding that whenever the Roumanian Government had carried the execution of the Treaty to the same formal stage, Her Majesty's Government should hold that it was open to Her Majesty also to recognize Roumania. Up to this time Roumania had only taken the initiatory steps, but there was reason for believing that a Bill precisely similar in import to that which has been passed in Servia would have been read a third time in the Roumanian Legislature before the middle of April. Count Münster expressed himself personally as inclined to view the matter in the same light as I did, but he promised to refer the question to his Government, and report on their answer on an early day.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 129.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

I HAVE telegraphed to inform you of the substance of a conversation Sir Henry Layard had with M. Waddington on passing through Paris three days ago.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed himself in the most decided terms against any modification of the Treaty of Berlin, whether in respect of the right of the Sultan to garrison the Balkans, or of the question of the appointment of a European Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency stated that he had sent instructions in this sense to the French Agents in Turkey, and that those instructions should be renewed in a peremptory form.

M. Desprez, who was present at the interview, stated his entire concurrence in what had fallen from M. Waddington.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 131. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 89 of yesterday's date, in which you mention a possible plan for meeting the difficulties connected with the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority in Eastern Roumelia, namely, that the Porte should waive for the present the exercise of the right to garrison and fortify the Balkans, keeping instead a strong force at Bourgas, which, with garrisons judiciously posted on the southern frontier and at Adrianople, would afford the necessary facilities for maintaining order in the province. In return for this concession, which might be proposed spontaneously by the Turkish Government, the Russian Government might be asked to consent to the nomination of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General, to make certain concessions on the second reading of the Organic Statute now under discussion, and to afford facilities for the transfer of the administration of the province at the close of the Russian occupation. The Porte might also stipulate for the construction of a strategical line of railway along the foot of the Balkan range.

Your suggestions shall receive the most careful consideration at the hands of Her Majesty's Government. In the meanwhile, I have requested you not to mention them except in your correspondence with me and with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople. There is a considerable risk that your remarks may be repeated with

exaggeration and misrepresentation. The Russian Ambassador has already quoted you as an authority for the statement that the provisions of the Treaty do not admit of being executed in their entirety.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 133.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 88 of yesterday's date relative to M. Ring's proposal to introduce a clause in the Organic Law for Eastern Roumelia, providing that the appointments of Bishops in the province shall be submitted to the Sultan by the Governor-General, and shall be held to be sanctioned in each case if a certain time elapses without a veto being pronounced.

I am inclined to doubt whether, under existing circumstances, it is necessary that the Constitution should touch the question of the appointment of Bishops; but, if the matter is to be dealt with, the solution suggested by the French Commissioner seems to me to be judicious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 263.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo and to my reply of the 1st instant relative to fresh appointments to be made to the several Commissions for the demarcation of frontiers under the Treaty of Berlin, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will inform Secretary Colonel Stanley that his Lordship proposes to appoint Major F. C. H. Clarke, R.A., hitherto attached to the staff of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission, to be the British Commissioner for the demarcation of that portion of the Turkish frontier in Asia which is referred to in the agreement signed by his Lordship and Count Schouvaloff on the 12th July last.

It has been agreed that the operations of this Commission shall include the frontier line from Karaousgan as far as Persia, and that it shall further be charged with the settlement of the new boundary between Turkey and Persia in the vicinity of Khotour.

Lord Salisbury thinks it would be desirable that Major Clarke should be accompanied by another officer to assist him in his duties, and would be glad if Colonel Stanley would make a selection for the purpose. He presumes that the assistant would receive a salary of 450*l.* a year, with pay and allowances, as in the case of the officers attached to the European Boundary Commissioners; but he would be glad to learn what salary should, in Colonel Stanley's opinion, be assigned to Major Clarke.

In consequence of this appointment it will also be necessary to select another officer to fill up Major Clarke's vacancy in the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
My Lords, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government having received information that the Russian forces are in process of evacuating the Turkish territory occupied by them beyond the limits assigned for their occupation by the Treaty of Berlin, it has been decided to withdraw the British fleet now stationed in the Sea of Marmora.

I have the honour accordingly to request that orders may be given to the Admiral Commanding-in-chief to remove the vessels under his command to Gallipoli.

It will be desirable that at an early date the fleet should go below the Straits of the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 18, 1879.

LAST night, at the German Commissioner's, Prince Tzeretelew acknowledged openly that the Russian authorities were arming and drilling the population.

He said that, in the absence of all precaution, it was absolutely essential not to leave them to the mercy of the Turks, who would inevitably massacre them on their return. The arming of the peasantry would give them only a power of defence and not of aggression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 266.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 22, 1879.

I HAVE already informed your Lordship of the arrival at this town of General Tchernaieff. His language, I am told, was very violent.

At the dinner to which I alluded in my telegram No. 54, he talked of Eastern Roumelia as a masquerade, and gave the advice I there mentioned.

To a German gentleman, who repeated his words to me, he complained of the weakness of Russia in consenting to the Treaty of Berlin, and in being frightened by what he called the comedy of bringing some battalions from India to Malta.

He said if Russia went to war with England, the latter would in three months be brought on her knees to implore for pardon. All Russia need do was to threaten India with an army of 50,000 men, and we should be helpless. When he was at Tashkend he received numberless telegrams from Indian Rajahs, asking for the help of Russia against English oppression; and he considered it a disgrace that Russia had deserted the Ameer of Afghanistan.

I informed your Lordship in my telegram No. 55 that I met General Stolipine, who was riding, and who stopped to tell me he had received by telegraph the expression of the Emperor's dissatisfaction at General Tchernaieff's journey. Colonel Schepelew told me the same.

I confess that, after an experience of some months, I find it daily more difficult to follow the intricacies of Russian administration. I cannot discover whether there really exist in it two genuine parties—a moderate party and an advanced one, the former really deploring the excesses of the latter—or whether we are not spectators of a gigantic stage play, in which each actor assumes the part best suited to his features and peculiarities, but where all contribute equally to the development of the same plot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 267.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February* 22, 1879.

AT our sitting on Tuesday we received a letter from General Stolipine offering us on certain conditions the reserved Chest. M. de Coutouly, the Reporter of the

Finance Committee, also repeated to us verbally a statement he had received in the same manner from General Stolipine to the effect that his Excellency knew several manifestations were preparing against M. Schmidt, which he was unable to prevent. He therefore offered military escorts for that gentlemen, whenever he found it necessary to proceed to the execution of his duties elsewhere than in Philippopolis.

Inclosed is a copy of General Stolipine's letter. The conditions laid down seem to me of a very extraordinary nature on the part of an outgoing Administration towards its successor. The more so, as the letter was accompanied by no accounts of any kind of the large sums which, during the last four months, should have been under our control and administration.

Your Lordship will perceive that all that it is now proposed to do is to transfer certain sums to us as a deposit, which we are to hand over to certain persons designated, without check or verification.

I thought this a good opportunity of clearing up our real position, and at a meeting held yesterday on financial matters I read the declaration, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

M. de Kallay expressed his concurrence in it, and then exposed the incorrectness of the figures detailed in General Stolipine's letter. It was resolved that, before sending an answer to this letter, M. de Coutouly should ask for further explanations.

I considered it the more necessary to establish the different points stated in my declaration, as the language of General Tchernaieff, and the continued distribution of arms give evidence that the excited state of the population is not so spontaneous as the Russian authorities would wish to make it appear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 267.

General Stolipine to the Finance Committee.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Février*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de prévenir le Comité des Finances que la succursale de la Caisse Centrale de Sophia, connue sous le nom de "Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli," se trouve actuellement fermée, par Décret du Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie.

Cette Caisse représentant un total de 160,495 roubles, dont 9,499 r. 13 c. en papier, renfermait les sommes suivantes:—

1. La somme de 34,155 r. 65 c. en or, et de 7,148 r. 93 c. papier, provenant des revenus du Sandjak d'Andrinople.

2. La somme de 40,933 r. 57 c. en or, et de 2,350 r. 20 c. papier, provenant des revenus des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno, n'entrant pas dans les frontières de la Roumélie Orientale, tracées par le Traité de Berlin, ces deux sommes ne concernent nullement les finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

3. La somme de 33,396 roubles en or, fixée par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie, avant l'entrée au pouvoir de la nouvelle Administration Financière, comme secours aux émigrés Bulgares et Grecs, et la somme de 8,550 roubles en or, fixée dans les mêmes conditions comme secours aux habitants de Calofer, Yeni-Zaghra, Eski-Zaghra, Sopot, et Carlovo.

Cet argent se trouve à la disposition d'une Commission spéciale de secours aux réfugiés, organisée par le Prince Commissaire au mois de Septembre, et représente le reliquat des sommes de 50,000 roubles or et 40,000 roubles or qui ont été fixées à ce sujet au début des travaux de la dite Commission.

Ces sommes peuvent être, au désir de la Commission Européenne, versées dans la Caisse du Comité des Finances, mais pas autrement qu'à titre de dépôt et l'avec l'assurance formelle qu'elles seront délivrées sans aucune espèce de vérification, ni de contrôle, sur la réclamation du Gouverneur de Philippopoli, Baron de Hübsch.

4. La somme de 21,000 roubles destinée, aussi avant le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, à la réparation du pont de la Maritza à Philippopoli, peut également être passée à la Caisse du Comité des Finances, mais aussi à titre de dépôt pour être délivrée à mesure de la marche des travaux, sur la réclamation de l'ingénieur qui en est chargé et auquel il y a déjà des arriérés à payer.

Excepté les sommes susmentionnées il se trouve dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli les sommes de—

(*a.*) 500 roubles destinés aux écoles de Peruschtitza, Batak, et Eski-Zaghra.

(*b.*) 317 r. 62½ c. destinés à l'entretien de l'école Réale de Philippopoli.

(*c.*) 361 r. 50 c. destinés aux frais de l'équipement des gendarmes.

(*d.*) 267 r. 27½ c. fixés pour l'entretien des médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli.

(*e.*) 562 r. 50 c. fixés dans le même but pour le Gouvernement de Slivno.

Toutes ces sommes forment le reliquat d'anciens crédits ouverts avant le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, et peuvent être actuellement remis au Comité des Finances, à titre de dépôt des institutions ou des fonctionnaires, au nom desquels ces crédits ont été préalablement ouverts.

4. De plus, il se trouve actuellement à la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli la somme de 3,336 r. 80½ c. en or et de 46,011 r. 90½ c. papier, provenant des revenus du Sandjak de Tirnovo et de Sistovo et laissés par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie pour pourvoir à l'entretien de la milice Bulgare qui, à la date de l'ouverture de ce crédit, faisait un avec la milice Rouméliote. Actuellement ces sommes seront envoyées à Sophia.

Je crois de mon devoir d'ajouter que les sommes qui doivent être remises au Comité des Finances peuvent être rendues à M. Schmidt, ou tel autre employé, désigné à cet effet par le Comité, Jeudi matin, dans le local de ma Chancellerie. Il va sans dire qu'il m'est indispensable de recevoir préalablement de la Commission Européenne un avis formel de son consentement à recevoir ces sommes dans les conditions ci-dessus exposées.

J'ose espérer que la résolution de cette affaire au gré de la Commission Européenne servira de précédent à l'aplanissement désirable de toutes les difficultés survenues pour la question financière entre la Commission Européenne et l'Administration Locale Russe.

(Signé) A. STOLIPINE.
P. NEKLUDOF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 267.

Declaration by Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

LA lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, datée du 17 Février, qui d'ailleurs n'est pas adressée au Président de la Commission, montre à l'évidence qu'en dépit des quatre mois écoulés depuis le jour où la Commission a pris les résolutions du 17 Octobre, elle n'a pas encore pu obtenir le contrôle exact des finances de la Roumélie Orientale; une partie des sommes qui relevaient de notre Administration ayant été retenues par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie, dans la succursale de la Caisse Centrale de Sophia.

Il me paraît intéressant de constater le fait, que c'est seulement le 18 Février, 1879, qu'il nous a été proposé de nous remettre sous certaines conditions, des sommes qui auraient dû nous être livrées de droit dès notre entrée en fonctions.

Au moment même où cette communication nous parvenait, nous recevions en même temps du Gouverneur-Général l'avis que l'autorité locale est impuissante à empêcher des manifestations dangereuses dirigées contre notre Directeur-Général. Désormais celui-ci ne pourra poursuivre l'exercice de ses fonctions au dehors de Philippopoli qu'accompagné d'une escorte militaire que son Excellence juge indispensable à sa sûreté personnelle.

Cette précaution me paraît d'autant plus nécessaire depuis que la population est armée et apprend le maniement du fusil selon le système Krinka, et nous savoir gré au Gouverneur-Général de sa prévoyance. En même temps je désire rappeler au souvenir de la Commission, que dans notre septième séance, le [illegible], 1878, nous avions voulu prier le Gouverneur-Général de porter à la connaissance de la population toute entière que la Commission Européenne s'était directement saisie de la question des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, conformément à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin. Le Colonel Schepelew s'est opposé à cette demande, et après une longue discussion MM. les Commissaires de Russie ont admis qu'on remplaçât les mots "de la population" par ceux "des contribuables." Il n'a été fait encore aucun droit à ces réclamations.

Aujourd'hui notre Directeur-Général des Finances, sur le point d'entreprendre une

tournée en dehors de Philippopoli, se verra dans la nécessité de se faire accompagner d'une escorte militaire. Ces précautions sont absolument indispensable. Les faits qui se sont passés à Yéni-Zaghra et plus récemment encore à Tchirpan et à Haskeui montrent combien les populations travaillées par des émissaires inconnus et agitées par les articles d'un journal qui s'imprime dans l'enceinte même de la Résidence Gouvernementale, sont surexcitées contre la Commission Européenne.

Mais il y a une question bien plus grave; l'opposition persistante des autorités à entraver les travaux de la Commission en matière de finances.

S'il ne s'était présenté que des cas de désobligeance isolés on pourrait les attribuer à la malveillance de quelques employés subalternes; mais il est évident que cette opposition systématique est le résultat d'un parti pris de son Excellence le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie, qui cherche même à nous imposer certaines conditions avant de nous remettre les sommes soumises à notre contrôle, en vertu de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

Le 20 Septembre, 1878, le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff s'est exprimé en ces termes à Lord Donoughmore, qui, le 21 Septembre, m'écrit de Philippopoli:—

"Le Prince déclara ensuite qu'il était bien décidé à ne remettre aucune partie du contrôle des finances de la province, et il ajouta aussitôt avec ironie qu'il ne comprenait pas comment il serait possible à la Commission d'administrer la province si elle n'avait pas le contrôle des finances. Il dit également que les frais de l'armée d'occupation serait à la charge de la province occupée par elle; que ces frais devant être soldés par les fonds de la province, il ne voulait pas nous les remettre, mais qu'il y avait en Caisse un léger surplus qu'il remettrait à la Commission pour en disposer à son gré.

"D'après ceci vous voyez qu'il menace de conserver non-seulement les fonds nécessaires à l'entretien de ses troupes, mais encore les sommes nécessaires pour le service des appointements des employés civils."

Cette déclaration a été suivie par le Contrat Maréchal.

Je n'ai pas l'intention de récapituler ici tous les empêchements qui depuis ont entravé la marche de nos travaux, ainsi que de notre gestion financière, ce sujet ayant été épuisé par M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, dans notre trente-unième séance, mais je crois devoir définir la nature même de cette opposition.

D'après les comptes qui nous ont été fournis pour le département de Philippopoli, il se trouvait en caisse la somme de 104,000 roubles, dont 95,000 provenaient de ce qu'on appelle les revenus conditionnels versés à la Caisse de la province, d'après un ordre du Commissaire Impérial en date du $\frac{25 \text{ Juillet}}{6 \text{ Août}}$, 1878. Les autorités n'ont pas fait mention d'un surplus qui se trouvait alors dans la succursale de la Caisse Centrale de Sophia, connue sous le nom de "Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli," quoique ce surplus provint de l'ensemble des sommes versées par les différents arrondissements de la Roumélie et de la vente des dîmes.

Le fait même de l'existence de cette Caisse n'est parvenue à notre connaissance que par suite des événements survenus à Yéni-Zaghra le 12 Décembre, 1878.

L'administration financière de la province nous a pas encore été entièrement remise. Aujourd'hui même le Gouverneur de Slivno prétend à une ingérence perpétuelle dans notre administration, et nous savons qu'au mois de Décembre le Baron Hübsch, à l'insu de la Commission, a adressé une circulaire aux Chefs des Arrondissements, en leur donnant l'ordre de soustraire à notre contrôle des sommes qui, d'après les règlements du Prince Dondoukoff, auraient du être remises entre nos mains.

Ce règlement ne pouvait être modifié sans l'assentiment de la Commission.

Mais malgré nos instances de la promesse, tant du Gouverneur-Général que du Gouverneur de Philippopoli, donnée depuis quinze jours, cette circulaire n'a été ni retirée, ni modifiée.

La lettre adressée au Gouverneur-Général à ce sujet par notre Président reste toujours sans résultat.

La circulaire que le hasard a portée à notre connaissance a nécessairement provoqué de notre part une demande d'explication, et M. le Gouverneur-Général nous a formellement déclaré qu'il n'était pas responsable des actes de ses subordonnés, qui agissaient d'après d'autres instructions que les siennes.

Le 17 Février M. le Général Stolipine se déclare enfin autorisé à nous remettre des sommes qui, avec d'autres sommes dépensées dans l'intervalle, auraient dû se trouver dans la Caisse de la province lors de sa remise entre nos mains. Si aujourd'hui nous avons droit à ces sommes, il est évident qu'elles auraient dû nous être remises alors.

Dans l'accomplissement de notre tâche, nous nous sommes toujours heurtés à des obstacles sans cesse renaissants. Ces obstacles ont été suscités par l'opposition

manifeste et évidente de son Excellence le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, opposition qu'il nous avait d'ailleurs annoncée d'avance.

Malgré la politique bienveillante de son Souverain, malgré les assurances, réitérées des Ministres Impériaux et de MM. les Généraux Todleben et Stolipine, qui ont déclaré à plusieurs reprises que Sa Majesté l'Empereur avait donné les ordres les plus formels pour arriver promptement à l'exécution complète des Articles du Traité de Berlin, le Prince n'a cessé de poursuivre son but, et paralyse ainsi toute l'efficacité de nos travaux.

Au lieu de nous remettre purement et simplement l'administration financière de la Roumélie Orientale, ainsi qu'il a été stipulé dans le Traité de Berlin, on cherche à nous imposer certaines conditions auxquelles je déclare ne pouvoir accéder.

Ces conditions dont aucune trace ne se trouve dans le Traité de Berlin, n'auraient jamais dû nous être proposées; car elles portent atteinte à l'indépendance de notre mandat et retarde l'exécution de tous nos travaux.

Je ne pourrai donc aucunement les accepter, et je proteste formellement contre cette nouvelle violation du Traité de Berlin. Je fais retomber sur son Excellence le Prince Dondoukoff toute le responsabilité des complications qui pourraient survenir.

No. 268.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, February 22, 1879.*

AS the Chapters with the preparation of which I was entrusted have been considered and passed in a more or less mutilated form, my labours will henceforward be limited to discussing the proposals of others. M. de Kallay and myself have agreed to do so as little as possible. We think that by thus abstaining others may do the same.

Baron de Ring told me yesterday that he was quite prepared to abbreviate his Chapter on the Administration, which we shall receive in print to-night, and which is very long, leaving certain details to a Projet de Loi, we may annex later or not as we think proper.

M. de Kallay is about to have his Chapter on the Judicature printed. It is very important, as the Russians wish to establish the principle of elective Judges.

M. Vernoni, who is charged with the Financial Chapter, will also have it printed very shortly.

M. de Braunschweig, who undertook the preparation of two Chapters, viz., those on Public Instruction and Real Property, will also soon be ready. I had a private conversation with him yesterday, and he agreed with me that these Chapters could be much shortened by laying down general principles and leaving details to be settled by the Assembly.

The Chapter on Public Worship will be difficult owing to the questions referred to in my despatch No. 53 of the 30th ultimo.

Colonel Schepelew, with whom I dined last night, told me he had received orders to expedite matters. He thought the best plan would be for us to finish the Chapters as rapidly as possible, and he would then go himself to St. Petersburg to obtain the decision of his Government on the points on which the Russian Commissioners were at issue with their colleagues.

As our Financial Administration is now likely to be much smoother, General Stolipine having, I understand, been relieved of his subordination to Sophia, I am in great hopes that the preparation of the Statute may go on rapidly.

One great difficulty has, however, been that, as the Russians, who have in their hands the administration of the country, refused from the first to assist at the preparation of our Chapters, we have had to obtain information and to make proposals which has rendered easier for them the task of obstruction.

As orders have come from St. Petersburg on this subject, it is to be hoped that this formidable obstacle may disappear.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 269.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February 22, 1879.*

INCLOSED I beg to forward translations of two advertisements from the "Maritza," inserted in that paper by a society calling itself the "Eagle." This society I have already mentioned to your Lordship as a Revolutionary Association. It has recently assumed the qualification of a gymnastic society. Your Lordship will perceive the species of pressure brought to bear on the members by this society.

I am told that still stronger intimations have been made by the "Maritza," but being entirely dependant on my translator, I am unable to find them. I only learnt of the two advertisements inclosed from another person, and have had them searched for and translated.

This society is the one which is drilled, as I have already informed your Lordship, at the late convent of Dancing Dervishes.

Considerable quantities of arms have during the last few days been deposited in the adjacent mosque, now converted into a guard-house. I learn that it is the intention of the Russians not to distribute any more rifles to individuals, but to create depôts at different centres, whence they may be taken when required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Extracts from the "Maritza."

LE Comité Gymnastique "l'Aigle" vient d'ouvrir pour la première fois ses exercices le 3 de ce mois dans le salon du Memléhoué.

Seulement trente personnes des membres étaient présents, parce que on n'a pas pu aviser tout par la presse. Le maître, M. Gozolaboff, ouvrit sa première lecture que les membres écoutèrent avec la plus grande satisfaction, et s'efforcèrent à faire tous les mouvements qu'on leur montrait.

Pour suivre régulièrement les leçons, la Direction invite par la presse tous les membres à fréquenter régulièrement tous les Jeudis et Dimanches le dit établissement de 4 à 5 heures à l'Européenne, le soir.

Celui des membres qui ne suit pas régulièrement, on agira envers lui d'après le Règlement du Comité, c'est-à-dire qu'on lui infligera des amendes.

Le 6 et le 7 de ce mois il y aura exercices auxquels doivent assister tous les membres. Dimanche, après l'église, le Comité aura une séance avec la réunion complète de tous les membres pour procéder à l'élection d'une Direction activé et régulière qui entreprendrait son œuvre d'accord avec le but du Comité.

Le Président Provisoire du Comité,
(Signé) N. M. TCHITCHKIDJEFF.

ON prie les messieurs qui ont été désignés pour inscrire, de la part du Comité Gymnastique National "l'Aigle," des membres pour ce Comité, de présenter la liste des personnes qui se sont inscrits jusqu'à présent, pour que nous puissions faire une liste générale et pouvoir observer ceux qui manquent aux exercices et leur imposer l'amende désignée.

Peut-être que pour quelques-uns cette amende paraît peu importante et presque nulle et qu'ils préfèrent la payer plutôt que de laisser pour un peu de temps leur affaire particulière.

Ceux-là en conséquence, s'il s'en trouvait de tels, attireraient sur eux une amende morale, l'étourdissement de la raison, de ce qu'ils n'accomplissent pas leur devoir sacré dans ces circonstances extraordinaires.

Rappellons-nous qu'il y a jour d'aujourd'hui et jour de demain. Que messieurs les membres remarquent que d'accord avec le Directeur du Comité, les exercices réguliers auront lieu le Jeudi de 6 à 7 heures à l'Européenne, et le Dimanche de 2 à 5 heures.

Le Secrétaire Provisoire du Comité,
(Signé) G. D. GHETCHEFF.

Plovdiv, le 11 Janvier, 1879.

No. 270.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, February 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 36th and 37th Protocols.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 270.

Protocole No. 36.—Séance du $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{7 \text{ Février}}$ 1879 (15 Sepher, 1296), à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 35, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande à son Excellence Assim Pacha si le Gouverneur-Général a répondu à la lettre que le Colonel Schepelew, alors Président temporaire de la Commission, a adressée, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 1879, au Général Stolipine relativement à la Caisse spéciale.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha ayant répondu négativement, le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique constate que l'autorité Russe persiste à refuser satisfaction à une demande légitime de la Commission.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dépose sur le bureau l'Article suivant, concernant la dissolution de l'Assemblée Provinciale, qu'il se propose d'ajouter au Chapitre V :

"Le Sultan a le droit de dissoudre l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"En cas de dissolution cette Assemblée est renouvelée intégralement.

"L'Acte de Dissolution qui est promulgué par le Gouverneur-Général au nom du Sultan, contient convocation des électeurs dans les quarante jours et de l'Assemblée dans les deux mois.

"La dissolution ne peut être prononcée qu'après que l'Assemblée a été réunie au moins pendant une Session ordinaire."

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dépose ensuite la motion suivante:

"*Motion.*

"Considérant la difficulté qu'il y a d'arriver à des résolutions, quand ces résolutions, pour être obligatoires, doivent être prises à l'unanimité,

"La Commission décide d'accepter le principe de la majorité pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique. En même temps elle décrète que le Statut Organique qu'elle élabore en ce moment pourra être révisé par le Gouverneur-Général, de concert avec l'Assemblée Provinciale, quand celle-ci aura été entièrement renouvelée, c'est-à-dire après deux élections de renouvellement, et que le Statut ainsi révisé sera soumis à l'acceptation de la Sublime Porte ainsi qu'à celle des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, représentées par leurs Ambassadeurs et Ministres à Constantinople."

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique dépose la motion suivante:—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission décide de prier les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein de nommer une Commission Militaire chargée de lui apporter le concours de ses lumières pour l'organisation de la milice et de la gendarmerie, ainsi que pour toutes les mesures à prendre pour prévenir le désordre qui pourrait éclater après le départ des forces Russes, à l'époque fixée par le Traité de Berlin pour l'évacuation définitive de la Province."

M. de Contouly communique à l'Assemblée un Rapport adressé par M. Schmidt au Comité des Finances.

Abro Effendi, après avoir pris connaissance de ce document, dépose la motion suivante, pour laquelle il demande l'urgence:—

"*Motion.*

"Le Rapport de M. Schmidt, contenant le récit de faits portant une atteinte très-grave à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, nous prions la Commission de prononcer l'urgence sur la discussion de ce Rapport, et nous demandons l'exécution prompte des promesses qui ont été faites à notre Directeur-Général, et qui se trouvent formulées dans la lettre adressée par lui au Gouverneur de Philippopoli."

L'urgence, mise aux voix, est acceptée par la Commission.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Chapitre V.

M. de Ring dit que l'amendement présenté par lui à l'Article 37 a été longuement discuté dans une réunion privée à laquelle ont pris part les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Russie. "Malheureusement," ajoute-il, "les efforts dans le but d'amener une entente complète entre nous n'ont pas abouti. Au lieu de pouvoir vous soumettre un texte qui nous satisfasse également, et dont nous nous reconnaissions par conséquent tous quatre les auteurs, je dois me borner à vous présenter un nouvel amendement qui, comme le précédent, est mon œuvre personnelle. Mais j'espère du moins que ma rédaction actuelle ne soulèvera plus les mêmes difficultés, et qu'elle pourra sinon être votée telle quelle, du moins, être acceptée avec de très-légères modifications":—

Amendement No. 2.

"Article 37. (Alinéa 2.)—Les membres du Comité sont au nombre de neuf.

"Ils sont élus par tous les Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale au scrutin de liste.

"Nul bulletin d'élection ne peut porter les noms de plus de cinq candidats. Les membres du Comité Permanent sont désignés à la fin de chaque Session ordinaire, et leur mandat n'expire qu'au commencement de la Session ordinaire suivante.

"Si, dans l'intervalle d'une Session à l'autre un siége vient à vaquer, il y sera pourvu à la plus prochaine Session ordinaire ou extraordinaire.

"Les membres du Comité Permanent reçoivent une indemnité de £. T. par an.

"Les Chefs de communautés religieuses, ne faisant pas partie du Comité Permanent ont droit d'assister avec voix consultative aux délibérations du Comité qui touchent les intérêts de leur communauté."

Le Colonel Schepelew prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Vous vous souvenez, Messieurs, que lors de la discussion sur les Articles du Chapitre V relatifs à la composition de l'Assemblée Provinciale, nous n'avons pu nous entendre avec la majorité de nos collègues au sujet de la nomination d'un certain nombre de Députés par le Gouverneur-Général, et que nous avons cru devoir nous prononcer contre le principe même de cette nomination.

"Nous espérions qu'en discutant les Articles sur le Comité Permanent dans des réunions privées avec quelques-uns de nos collègues, nous pourrions tomber d'accord sur l'adoption d'un système d'élection pour le Comité, qui, en sauvegardant les droits de la minorité de la Chambre, ne préjugerait en rien le principe même de la composition de l'Assemblée. Bien que nous ayions proposé de fixer le rapport numérique entre la majorité et la minorité au sein du Comité Permanent proportionnellement à celui qui existerait dans l'Assemblée Provinciale entre les Membres élus et leurs collègues nommés, même dans le cas où cette Assemblée serait constituée conformément à l'amendement présenté par le Commissaire de France dans la séance du $\frac{19}{24}$ Janvier, et que nous avions repoussé, l'accord espéré ne s'est point réalisé. Aussi, bien que M. le Baron de Ring ait introduit quelques modifications dans son amendement, nous nous voyons encore une fois dans l'impossibilité d'admettre le système de vote proposé par lui pour l'élection des membres du Comité Permanent.

"Je ne veux pas abuser de votre patience en expliquant les motifs qui nous guident et en récapitulant les raisons, très-graves à notre point de vue, que nous avons déjà longuement exposées lors des débats sur la composition de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Je ferai remarquer seulement que selon l'opinion très-juste de M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Comité Permanent devrait être une photographie exacte de l'Assemblée Provinciale, tandis que le Comité, tel qu'il est proposé par l'amendement du Baron de Ring, est loin de répondre à cette idée. En somme, que demandons-nous? Qu'on ne porte aucune atteinte au droit légitime de la grande majorité de la population d'être proportionnellement représentée à l'Assemblée comme au Comité Permanent: ce n'est qu'à cette condition que la voix de la majorité pourra se faire entendre légalement et aura le poids moral auquel elle peut prétendre.

"Si, au contraire, nous recourions à des moyens factices pour affaiblir la majorité représentative, je craindrais très-sérieusement que nous ne forcions la population à chercher tôt ou tard un moyen illégal de faire écouter ses demandes et qui pourrait avoir les plus fâcheuses conséquences pour le pays."

Abro Effendi regrette vivement que les Délégués du Russie ne croient pas possible d'accepter l'Amendement No. 2 du Baron de Ring à l'Article 37, d'autant plus que le Commissaire de France n'a changé la rédaction de son amendement que pour amener ses collègues à partager l'opinion de la majorité des Commissaires: "Pour notre compte," ajoute-t-il, "nous préférions la rédaction première de l'Article 37; mais nous acceptons l'Amendement No. 2 de notre collègue de France, pour donner une nouvelle preuve de l'esprit conciliant que nous n'avons cessé de montrer en toute circonstance.

Le Prince Tzeretelew: "Après l'exposé qu'a fait tout à l'heure le Colonel Schepelew, des motifs qui nous obligent à rejeter l'amendement du Baron de Ring, il ne me reste plus qu'à relever quelques points de détail. Il est inutile de prouver combien la majorité d'une voix donnée aux membres élus du Comité Permanent serait précaire et combien elle dépendrait d'un hasard ou d'une abstention même involontaire. Nous ne nous opposons pas à ce que la minorité soit représentée dans le Comité, mais il ne faut pas lui donner plus de force qu'elle n'en a au sein de l'Assemblée. Le projet du Baron de Ring établit de plus que le Comité Permanent est constitué à la fin de chaque Session ordinaire et que son mandat expire au commencement de la Session suivante. D'après moi, les pouvoirs d'un Comité Permanent ne devraient prendre fin qu'au moment où le Comité destiné à le remplacer serait formé; au cas contraire, toutes les affaires courantes, tous les travaux commencés seraient interrompus. Enfin, s'il n'est pourvu aux siéges vacants qu'au renouvellement du Comité, le cas pourra facilement se présenter, dès les premiers jours de la formation du Comité,

qu'un membre fasse défaut par suite de maladie ou de mort: la majorité serait ainsi faussée pendant un certain temps dans un sens ou dans un autre. Il est donc nécessaire de stipuler que des membres suppléants seront désignés pour pouvoir à l'occasion remplir les siéges vacants."

Le Baron de Ring: "Il est difficile de prévoir comment se divisera la future Assemblée Provinciale et de quel nombre de voix y disposeront la majorité et la minorité; de même qu'on ne saurait, je crois, raisonner en partant de l'hypothèse que la majorité y sera toujours Gouvernementale ou toujours anti-Gouvernementale. La conception qui identifie avec deux partis politiques nettement tranchés les membres élus, d'un côte, les membres nommés et ceux de droit, de l'autre est arbitraire. Il y aura en effet, je l'espère, des Députés élus Gouvernementaux et des Députés de droit dans l'opposition. Les majorités ne seront donc, ni éternelles, ni immuables; si elles ne devaient pas changer, le pays ne pourrait d'ailleurs point être gouverné avec des institutions représentatives. Je me figure, quant à moi, que la majorité se déplacera souvent et que, notamment sur une foule de questions pratiques, elle se formera grâce à des coalitions tout-à-fait fortuites; mais que, même sur les questions purement politiques, elle ne sera jamais composée d'une catégorie déterminée de Députés. Mon collègue de la Grande Bretagne, dans une des précédentes séances, a dit en parlant du Comité Permanent, que celui-ci devrait être la photographie de l'Assemblée. J'accepte cette définition, et voilà pourquoi je voudrais donner à la future majorité de l'Assemblée cinq siéges au Comité Permanent et à l'opposition quatre. Nous nous rapprocherions ainsi, j'en suis persuadé, de la moyenne de leurs forces respectives au sein de l'Assemblée Provinciale elle-même.

"Le Prince Tzeretelew fait observer que la maladie ou la mort d'un des cinq Députés élus faisant partie du Comité pourrait altérer les forces respectives des partis dans le dit Comité: cela est incontestable. Mais le même raisonnement s'appliquerait aux Députés de la minorité qui ne sont pas non plus à l'abri des coups du destin. Néanmoins, je ne suis pas éloigné d'admettre l'utilité d'une mesure qui atténuât l'effet de ce genre d'accidents. Ajoutons aux neuf membres titulaires du Comité Permanent trois membres suppléants élus d'après les mêmes principes, et nous aurons paré autant qu'il dépend de nous au danger signalé par M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie. Statuons que les trois membres suppléants seront élus au scrutin de liste, de telle manière que nul bulletin d'élection ne portera de plus de deux noms.

"Je vous propose en conséquence le sous-amendement suivant à l'Amendement No. 2 présenté par moi à cette séance."

"' (Alinéa 6.) L'Assemblée Provinciale élit en outre au scrutin de liste trois Membres suppléants et pour cette élection nul bulletin ne peut porter les noms de plus de deux candidats.

"' (Alinéa 7.) Les membres suppléants sont appelés à siéger suivant l'ordre d'un Tableaux sur lequel ils seront classés d'après le nombre des suffrages qu'ils auront obtenus.' "

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff partage l'avis de son collègue de France sur la nomination des membres suppléants. Mais il croit que les pouvoirs du Comité Permanent devraient être suspendus pendant toute la réunion de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Au surplus, il regrette de voir que, malgré son désir d'entente et malgré les concessions qu'il a faites dans ce but, le désaccord persiste au sein de la Commission. Il ne croit pas que l'on puisse arriver à un compromis aussi longtemps que les Délégués de Russie refuseront d'admettre le principe que des Membres de l'Assemblée soient nommés par le Gouverneur-Général.

M. Vernoni pense que le Comité Permanent étant une émanation de l'Assemblée Provinciale, ne doit pas siéger en même temps qu'elle, et doit par conséquent interrompre ses travaux aussitôt que l'Assemblée est réunie.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes: "J'aurais préféré le texte primitif proposé par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et si je ne me suis pas opposé aux changements qui y ont été introduits depuis, c'était pour faciliter la marche des travaux. Le Baron de Ring a présenté un premier amendement qui est resté sans résultat. Aujourd'hui il en a présenté un second, que je suis disposé à accepter avec le sous-amendement. Je ne vois pas une grande différence à ce que le Comité Permanent soit élu au commencement ou à la fin des Sessions de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Si on le désire je suis prêt à accepter que ce soit au commencement, mais à la condition que pendant la durée de la Session le Comité ne pourra pas fonctionner.

"Je ne ferai qu'une objection à ce qu'ont avancé les Commissaires de Russie. Ils disent qu'une seule voix est assurée à la majorité. Je l'admets; mais la majorité.

est-elle fixe? Non, elle peut se modifier, elle peut même se transformer. Aujourd'hui nous croyons les passions mal éteintes peuvent former une majorité hostile: dans quelque temps les esprits peuvent se calmer et la situation changer. N'oublions pas du reste que nous ne légiférons pas pour un pays indépendant: nous cherchons à créer une autorité représentative qui exerce un contrôle sur les actes du pouvoir exécutif.

Il est utile qu'il n'y ait pas dans l'Assemblée future une majorité hostile au Gouverneur-Général. Si la Roumélie Orientale devait avoir un Gouvernement indépendant et Parlementaire, la situation serait différente, mais je crois que nous ne pouvons pas établir ici un Gouvernement Parlementaire comme celui qui existe en Angleterre. Il faut éviter avant tout que le Gouverneur-Général soit toujours en lutte avec l'Assemblée. Comme elle ne pourra pas le remplacer sous prétexte qu'il lui sera simplement peu sympathique, nous devons tout faire pour qu'elle puisse s'entendre avec lui, sans quoi l'administration deviendrait impossible.

"Du reste, d'après l'amendement de M. de Ring, la majorité des membres du Comité Permanent est assurée à celle de l'Assemblée. Une majorité de cinq voix sur quatre c'est toujours faire pencher la balance; mais je désire absolument que la minorité quelle qu'elle soit se trouve représentée dans le Comité Permanent de telle façon qu'elle ne soit pas nécessairement à la merci de la majorité; c'est pourquoi je répète que j'accepte les chiffres 4 et 5 proposés par le Baron de Ring."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff déclare qu'il adhère à ce qui a été dit par son honorable collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie fait observer qu'à la Conférence de Constantinople tous les Plénipotentiaires, sans en excepter ceux de Turquie, étaient tombés d'accord sur la formation d'un Conseil Administratif: "C'est à ce Conseil," dit-il, "que doit correspondre le Comité Permanent, et dès lors il doit être composé des représentants de la majorité de l'Assemblée, avec une juste participation de la minorité.

"Nous pourrons voter l'Amendement No. 2 du Baron de Ring à l'Article 37 et le sous-amendement, si on laisse en blanc le nombre des membres jusqu'au moment où une entente se sera produite sur la composition de l'Assemblée."

Le Baron de Ring se rangera avec plaisir à l'avis du Prince Tzeretelew, dès que les Commissaires de Russie auront accepté l'Article 1 du Chapitre V, qui est resté ouvert.

M. de Kallay fera de même si les Commissaires de Russie acceptent en outre le chiffre de douze Membres de l'Assemblée nommés par le Gouverneur-Général, sur lequel tous leurs collègues sont tombés d'accord.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff est prêt à suivre l'exemple de M. de Kallay.

Le Président lit et met aux voix l'alinéa premier de l'Article 37.

"VI.—*Commission Permanente.*

"Article 37. Pendant l'intervalle des Sessions, l'Assemblée Provinciale est représentée par un Comité Permanent pris dans son sein et délégué par elle."

Les Commissaires de Russie sont d'avis que le premier alinéa de l'Article 37 est en contradiction avec le rôle qu'on s'est entendu pour assigner au Comité Permanent, et que dans sa rédaction actuelle il donnera lieu à de nombreux malentendus. A leur point de vue, si le Comité Permanent n'est pas destiné à siéger pendant les réunions de l'Assemblée, il est indispensable de prévoir dans le Statut Organique à qui seront confiées alors les affaires courantes, de quelle façon se fera l'entente avec le Gouverneur-Général dans certains cas spéciaux, par exemple si l'état de siége était proclamé, et plusieurs autres points non moins importants.

Une discussion s'élève à ce sujet entre les Commissaires, et l'entente n'ayant pu s'établir, la Commission décide de passer à l'ordre du jour en remettant à la prochaine séance la continuation du débat sur l'Article 37 du Chapitre V.

L'ordre du jour appelle la sixième question posée à la trente et unième séance, au nom du Comité des Finances, par M. de Coutouly: "6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha?"

Sur la proposition de *Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff*, le débat est remis à la prochaine séance.

L'urgence appelle la discussion sur la motion d'Abro Effendi déposée au début de la séance, à la suite de la communication du Rapport de M. Schmidt.

M. de Coutouly lit ce travail :

"*Rapport au Comité des Finances.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$, 1879.

"Par les rapports de quelques Caissiers d'Arrondissement j'ai été informé, il y a quelques jours que les Conseil d'Arrondissement du département de Philippopoli avaient suspendu le versement aux Caisses de l'Etat des sommes entrées conditionnellement et provenant des biens des fugitifs Turcs. Les Conseils avaient fait savoir aux Caissiers qu'ils agissaient sur un ordre du Gouverneur.

"Désireux de m'informer personnellement sur les causes de cette suspension, je me présentai devant le Conseil d'Arrondissement de Philippopoli, pour lui demander de me faire voir les registres concernant l'encaissement des revenus de l'Etat et ceux des sommes provenant des biens Turcs ; à ma question consistant à savoir pourquoi ces dernières sommes n'étaient plus versées à la Caisse d'Arrondissement, le Conseil répondit en exhibant un ordre circulaire du Gouverneur de Philippopoli adressé aux Chefs d'Arrondissement, à la date du 10 Décembre, 1878 (v. s.).

"Ce document, dont on ne voulut pas me permettre de prendre copie, était fort étendu.

"Voici un résumé de son contenu :

"Les sommes entrées conditionnellement et provenant des biens des fugitifs Turcs ne doivent pas être versées dans les Caisses qui se trouvent sous l'autorité de M. Schmidt.

"Le cas peut se présenter où l'autorité civile ait besoin de cet argent ; c'est pourquoi il faut le mettre dans des sacs cachetés, qui peuvent être confiés à la Caisse d'Arrondissement pour y être gardés à titre de dépôt. Mais le reçu du Caissier doit être libellé de telle façon que le Conseil d'Arrondissement puisse retirer son dépôt à tout moment.

"Finalement, ces sommes seront versées à la Caisse provinciale à Philippopoli, laquelle n'a pas été remise à la Commission Européenne, et qui fonctionne en dehors de sa compétence.

"Dans ce document, il était en outre dit qu'il doit être bien entendu que le Directeur des Finances ne peut exercer aucune autorité sur les Caisses municipales.

"Comme il était dit dans cette circulaire que les instructions y contenues étaient données sur l'ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, je m'adressai immédiatement au Général Stolipine, lequel ignorait absolument la dite circulaire du 10 Décembre. D'après lui, il y avait un malentendu de la part du Gouverneur auquel il avait donné dans le temps l'ordre de veiller pour que les encaissements faits sur la vente des biens du Gouvernement Ottoman ne fussent pas confondus avec les sommes provenant des propriétés particulières des Turcs ; les premiers revenant comme butin de guerre au Gouvernement Russe, les seconds devant entrer dans les Caisses de la province, qui aurait à en tenir compte aux Turcs rentrant dans leurs foyers.

"Ayant l'intention d'aller le lendemain, Vendredi 7 courant, à Tatar-Bazardjik, pour une inspection, et craignant de m'y heurter contre les effets de cette circulaire, j'allai trouver M. le Gouverneur, Baron de Hübsch, et le priai d'annuler ses instructions du 10 Décembre et de donner avis par télégraphe de cette annulation à l'autorité de Tatar-Bazardjik ainsi qu'aux autres autorités du département de Philippopoli.

"Son Excellence le Général me promit de faire ce que je lui demandais.

"Vendredi, j'allai à Tatar-Bazardjik et je me présentai dans le courant de la journée au Conseil d'Arrondissement, lequel n'avait encore donné au Caissier aucun des renseignements qu'il aurait dû, sur ma demande, et conformément à l'ordre du Gouverneur-Général, avoir fournis le 31 Décembre (v. s.) sur les arriérés des dîmes, sur la taxe des moutons, &c. Le Président du Conseil me dit que ces renseignements ne seraient prêts que dans quelques jours. Je lui demandai alors de me présenter les comptes des revenus des biens des fugitifs Turcs. Il commença d'abord par contester faiblement mon droit d'examiner ces comptes, mais il finit bientôt par exhiber ses registres : j'ai trouvé qu'ils étaient très-imparfaitement tenus ; et qu'il était impossible de constater quelles sommes avaient été réellement encaissées de ce chef. Sur ma question si le Conseil n'avait pas un registre de Caisse, dans lequel fussent inscrits tous les encaissements, le Président répondit négativement, en déclarant que toutes les sommes encaissées par le Conseil avaient été immédiatement versées à la Caisse d'Arrondissement et inscrites dans le livre de Caisse tenu par le Caissier. Alors je demandai encore au Président, si le Conseil n'avait en son pouvoir aucune somme en dehors de celles qui avaient été versées au Caissier et qui étaient entrées dans le

registre de Caisse, parce que depuis longtemps la Caisse n'avait reçu aucun versement provenant des encaissements faits sur les biens des fugitifs Turcs.

"Le Président affirma que tout était porté dans les registres du Caissier d'Arrondissement et que depuis longtemps aucun encaissement de sommes conditionnelles n'avait été effectué. Cependant, lorsque je vérifiai la Caisse, j'y trouvai, à ma grande surprise, un sac cacheté déposé par le Conseil d'Arrondissement pour qu'il fût tenu à sa disposition.

"J'allai aussitôt trouver le Chef d'Arrondissement et je lui déclarai que le Président du Conseil de Tatar-Bazardjik m'avait donné un renseignement contraire à la vérité en répondant à une question que je lui avais adressée en ma qualité officielle de Directeur-Général des Finances.

"Le Chef d'Arrondissement manda aussitôt le Président et le blâma en ma présence de s'être écarté de la vérité. Quant à ce dernier il s'en excusa en avançant qu'il avait complétement oublié le dépôt de ce sac et que, du reste, il avait agi suivant les instructions reçues par lui.

"Je demandai alors au Chef d'Arrondissement s'il n'avait pas reçu une dépêche du Gouvernement annulant sa Circulaire de 10 Décembre. Il me répondit qu'il en avait bien reçu un télégramme lui annonçant mon arrivée et lui prescrivant de ne pas me faire de difficultés, mais que dans cette dépêche il n'était pas question de la Circulaire du 10 Décembre.

"A ma question s'il se croyait autorisé à donner l'ordre que le contenu du sac cacheté fût versé dans la Caisse, le Chef d'Arrondissement répondit d'abord négativement. Il consentit toutefois, après une conversation dans laquelle je lui racontai les déclarations verbales que le Général Stolipine et le Général Hübsch m'avaient faites la veille, à donner l'ordre de verser dans la Caisse de l'Arrondissement le contenu du sac cacheté, mais en ajoutant qu'il ne donnait cet ordre qu'à cause du peu importance de la somme en question.

"Le Président du Conseil exigea d'abord un ordre par écrit, mais le Chef d'Arrondissement me promit d'arranger l'affaire le lendemain. J'ai donc lieu de croire que ce versement a été effectué.

"La veille de mon départ pour Tatar-Bazardjik, après avoir reçu les déclarations de M. le Gouverneur-Général, j'avais donné l'ordre au Caissier de l'Arrondissement de Philippopoli de s'adresser officiellement et par écrit au Conseil du même arrondissement pour prier celui-ci de verser toutes les sommes conditionnellement entrées et de lui donner le compte de ces sommes à partir du mois d'Octobre (v.s.). Le Caissier devait en outre informer le Conseil d'Arrondissement qu'aucune vente des produits des champs Turcs moissonnés ne pourrait être effectuée sans le consentement de l'Administration Financière.

"Le lendemain, Vendredi, le Caissier reçut une réponse du Conseil lui disant simplement qui si les employés des Caisses et des Contributions Indirectes étaient placés sous les ordres du Directeur-Général des Finances, le Conseil d'Arrondissement n'avait d'instructions à recevoir que du Chef d'Arrondissement ; on refusait ainsi d'entrer en relation avec l'employé des finances, qui avait déclaré agir sur mon ordre.

"Samedi, à midi, je soumis la copie de la réponse du Conseil d'Arrondissement à M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli, en priant celui-ci de faire en sorte :

"1. Que le Conseil d'Arrondissement retirât la lettre écrite au caissier ;

"2. Que le Conseil la remplaçât par une autre lettre, dans laquelle le dit Conseil se reconnaîtrait obligé à fournir au Caissier tous les renseignements que celui-ci pourrait lui demander sur les questions financières, y compris celle des revenus provenant des biens des fugitifs Turcs ;

"3. Que les sommes se trouvant au pouvoir du Conseil d'Arrondissement fussent immédiatement versées à la Caisse d'Arrondissement, avec indication exacte de la provenance de ces sommes.

"Je priais, en outre, M. le Gouverneur de me communiquer la copie de la nouvelle circulaire qu'il devait envoyer aux Chefs d'Arrondissement, pour annuler, suivant la promesse de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, les instructions contenues dans sa Circulaire du 10 Décembre.

"M. le Gouverneur me promit sans hésiter de satisfaire aux quatre demandes que j'avais formulées.

"Comme j'avais l'intention de partir aujourd'hui, Lundi, pour une tournée d'inspection à Haskeuï et dans le département de Slivno, j'avais prié M. le Gouverneur de vouloir bien exécuter ses promesses, le jour même, Samedi, ce qu'il avait d'ailleurs verbalement promis.

"Cependant, un peu plus tard, vers 1 heure et demie, je crus devoir, pour éviter tout malentendu, remettre à M. le Gouverneur copie d'une lettre, que j'avais adressée au Caissier de l'Arrondissement, pour l'informer des promesses faites par son Excellence et pour le prier de m'envoyer le plus tôt possible une copie de la lettre que le Conseil d'Arrondissement devait lui adresser.

"Sur ce, M. le Gouverneur me pria par lettre de renvoyer mon départ à Mardi, parce que, malgré toute sa bonne volonté, le temps matériel lui manquait, disait-il, pour donner les instructions désirées.

"Je consentis volontiers à ce délai, mais comme dans la lettre de M. le Gouverneur les promesses que son Excellence m'avait données verbalement n'étaient pas expliquées je jugeai prudent de récapituler ces promesses par écrit, en priant son Excellence de faire en sorte qu'elles fussent exécutées avant Lundi à midi; et qu'autrement je croirais de mon devoir de porter cette affaire devant vous, Messieurs, pour mettre ma responsabilité à couvert.

"Une copie de cette dernière lettre adressée par moi à M. le Gouverneur est annexée au présent Rapport.

"Jusqu'à ce moment (2 heures), ni le Caissier d'Arrondissement ni moi, n'avons reçu aucune communication relative à cette affaire.

"Je saisis cette occasion pour vous déclarer, Messieurs, en vous priant de porter cette déclaration à la connaissance de la Commission Européenne, qui a bien voulu me confier la direction de l'Administration Financière de cette province, que je dois décliner toute responsabilité, si cette Administration n'est pas encore entrée dans une voie régulière et satisfaisante.

"Par le fait que les archives de l'Administration Financière ne m'ont pas été livrées, il me manque cet ensemble de renseignements qui est indispensables à la Direction. Je n'obtiens ces renseignements qu'au fur et à mesure de mes demandes pour chaque cas spécial, et alors même avec une grande perte de temps.

"Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général m'a toujours exprimé son vif désir de faciliter par tous les moyens l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne, et il a donné souvent des preuves de son bon vouloir. Mais il paraît qu'il ne lui a pas été possible de communiquer son esprit aux autres autorités de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Le présent Rapport vous cite un exemple de ce fait, qui devient plus frappant si vous vous rappelez la Circulaire que son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a adressée aux Gouverneurs des Départements de Slivno et de Philippopoli à la date du $\frac{4}{16}$ Décembre, Circulaire qui a été communiquée à la Commission Européenne dans sa vingt-quatrième séance. L'effet de cette Circulaire, laquelle avait été vivement approuvée par la Commission, aurait sans doute été considérable, si elle n'avait pas été suivie de trop près par la Circulaire du 10 Décembre (v. s.), dont j'ai cru devoir demander l'annulation immédiate.

(Signé) "SCHMIDT."

"(A.) Copie de la lettre adressée par le Directeur-Général des Finances à son Excellence le Général Baron de Hübsch-Grossthal, Gouverneur de Philippopoli:—

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

"M. le Gouverneur,

"Je viens de recevoir votre lettre de ce jour. Pour vous donner le temps d'exécuter vos promesses, je me suis décidé à renvoyer mon départ à Mardi.

"La Commission Européenne tiendra une séance officielle Lundi prochain à 2 heures.

"C'est pourquoi je prierai votre Excellence de faire le nécessaire pour que les promesses que vous avez bien voulu me faire aujourd'hui soient exécutées Lundi avant midi.

"Dans le cas contraire, je me verrai forcé, pour mettre ma responsibilité à couvert, de porter cette affaire devant la Commission Européenne, Lundi, à 2 heures.

"Pour éviter tout malentendu, je prendrai la liberté de récapituler les promesses que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire et dont j'attendrai l'exécution jusqu'à Lundi à midi.

"1. Votre Excellence m'a promis la communication de la copie d'une Circulaire qu'elle doit adresser aux Chefs d'Arrondissement, pour annuler les instructions contenues dans la Circulaire du 10 Décembre dernier.

"2. Votre Excellence m'a promis que le Conseil d'Arrondissement retirera la lettre No. 104, qu'il a adressée hier au Caissier d'Arrondissement, et que ce Conseil priera le dit Caisser de regarder cette lettre comme nulle et non-avenue.

"3. Votre Excellence m'a promise de faire en sorte que le Conseil d'Arrondissement remplace cettre lettre par une autre dans laquelle le dit Conseil se reconnaîtra obligé à fournir au Caissier tous les renseignements que celui-ci pourrait lui demander sur les questions financières, y compris celle des revenus provenant des biens des fugitifs Turcs.

"4. Votre Excellence m'a promis que toutes les sommes se trouvant au pouvoir du Conseil d'Arrondissement seront versées à la Caisse d'Arrondissement, avec indication exacte de la provenance de ces sommes.

Il est bien entendu que le Conseil d'Arrondissement devra, non-seulement avoir reçu les ordres de votre Excellence, mais aussi les avoir exécutés avant Lundi prochain à midi.

"Je désire, comme votre Excellence, éviter tout froissement, et je la remercie de la parfaite courtoisie dont elle a fait toujours preuve envers moi.

"Votre Excellence comprend d'ailleurs que lorsqu'il m'arrive d'insister auprès d'elle avec une certaine vivacité pour obtenir le prompt réglement d'une affaire pendante, j'obéis à un devoir imprescriptible et avec la conviction profonde que les bons comptes font les bons amis.

"Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) "SCHMIDT."

Le Président relit la motion d'Abro Effendi déposée au début de la séance:

"*Motion.*

"Le Rapport de M. Schmidt contenant le récit de faits portant une atteinte très-grave à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, nous prions la Commission de prononcer l'urgence sur la discussion de ce Rapport, et nous demandons l'exécution prompte des promesses qui ont été faites à notre Directeur-Général et qui se trouvent formulées dans la lettre adressée par lui au Gouverneur de Philippopoli."

Le Baron de Ring propose que le Président de la Commission soit autorisé à adresser une lettre au Général Stolipine, pour demander l'exécution des promesses faites à M. Schmidt.

Le Colonel Schepelew déclare qu'il s'associe d'autant plus volontiers à la proposition du Commissaire de France d'adresser une lettre au Gouverneur-Général, que de cette manière la Commission pourra s'éclairer complétement sur les faits relatés par le Directeur-Général des Finances. Quant à une discussion immédiate du Rapport de M. Schmidt, le Premier Commissaire de Russie la considère comme sans portée pratique tant que la Commission n'aura pas reçu les explications que lui fournira probablement le Gouverneur-Général.

"Je ferai pourtant remarquer," ajoute le Colonel Schepelew, "qu'une partie des sommes dites conditionnelles appartient à titre de butin de guerre à l'Administration Russe qui avait parfaitement le droit de ne pas la remettre à notre Directeur-Général des Finances. Je m'abstiens d'examiner en ce moment la légitimité des ordres donnés par M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli pour arrêter le versement dans les Caisses d'Arrondissement de toutes les sommes conditionnelles; mais j'ai lieu de supposer que si le Baron de Hübsch a promis au Directeur-Général des Finances d'annuler ces ordres, il n'a pu le faire qu'éventuellement, sauf à en référer au Gouverneur-Général."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff constate qu'après avoir reçu la promesse formelle que toutes les Caisses de la Province lui seraient remises, la Commission apprend que le Gouverneur de Philippopoli a donné des ordres contraires aux assurances du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

M. de Contouly récapitule brièvement les points les plus importants du Rapport de M. Schmidt: "Il est heureux," dit-il, "que la Circulaire lancée le $\frac{10}{22}$ Décembre par le Gouverneur de Philippopoli ait été montrée au Directeur des Finances, puisqu'en la lui faisant voir on lui a fourni un moyen de faire cesser tout de suite un malentendu grave.

"Nous n'avions jamais soupçonné qu'un ou plusieurs fonctionnaires de l'Administration Civile Russe pourraient ne pas être tout-à-fait d'accord avec nous sur la question des sommes provenant de l'exploitation des biens appartenant à des fugitifs Musulmans et entrées conditionnellement dans les Caisses des Conseils d'Arrondissement. Nous avions toujours soutenu que ces sommes devaient être remises, comme toute le reste des revenus publics, à l'Administration chargée par le Traité de Berlin

de la gestion souveraine des finances de cette province, pour être gardées en dépôt par cette Administration, et versées autant que faire se pourrait, et le plus tôt possible, entre les mains des ayants-droit. Cette décision paraissait être aussi celle de toutes les autorités supérieures civiles que nous connaissons dans cette province. Aussi, notre étonnement a été grand lorsque nous avons appris l'existence d'une Circulaire émanant d'une de ces autorités et soutenant une théorie contraire.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général s'est, il est vrai, empressé de désavouer le contenu de cette Circulaire et M. Schmidt a obtenu la promesse qu'elle serait annulée. Mais la Direction Générale des Finances estime avec raison que cette annulation est une mesure absolument urgente. A la veille d'entreprendre une sérieuse tournée d'inspection, que des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté l'ont forcé trop longtemps de remettre de jour en jour, M. Schmidt juge, et le Comité des Finances juge avec lui, que la question des sommes dites conditionnelles doit être réglée sans aucun retard. Dans son zèle pour la mission dont vous l'avez chargé, notre Directeur-Général a fait de grands efforts pour obtenir un réglement immédiat. C'est parce qu'il n'a pas réussi et pour mettre sa responsabilité à couvert qu'il a dû adresser au Comité le Rapport dont je viens de vous donner lecture. Tout était prêt pour son départ; il a bien fait selon nous d'ajourner une fois encore son voyage, jusqu'à ce que des instructions complètes et absolument précises aient été enfin expédiées; il a bien fait selon nous de demander communication du texte de ces instructions, afin d'être au besoin en mesure de confondre ceux des fonctionnaires qui pourraient s'excuser en prétendant avoir reçu des ordres peu clairs. Mais le Comité des Finances est d'avis que le voyage d'inspection de M. Schmidt ne saurait être différé d'avantage, et que, pour cette raison, la Commission Européenne devra, si elle adopte la proposition faite, insister chaleureusement auprès du Gouverneur-Général, pour lui demander de vouloir bien ordonner sans aucun retard l'exécution des mesures urgentes réclamées par M. Schmidt."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff regrette que la Commission consacre un temps précieux à des questions aussi peu importantes: "Depuis quatre mois," dit-il, "nous ne sommes pas encore parvenus à résoudre cette question des finances."

M. de Kallay se plaît à constater que M. Schmidt a fait son devoir en adressant au Comité des Finances le Rapport dont il a été donné lecture, et il s'associe volontiers à la proposition du Baron de Ring.

M. de Coteuly prie le Président de demander au Gouverneur-Général non-seulement d'expédier des ordres précis, mais aussi de vouloir bien en donner copie à M. Schmidt.

La proposition du Baron de Ring, mise aux voix, est adopté par la Commission.

A la demande du *Prince Tzeretelew*, il demeure entendu que le Président s'entendra avec le Comité des Finances, pour rédiger la lettre qu'il adressera au Gouverneur-Général.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 12 Février:—

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V: "de l'Assemblée Provinciale;"

2. La sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente-sixième séance et conçue en ces termes: "6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha;"

3. Le débat sur les motions déposées par Sir H. Drummond Wolff au début de la séance.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 270.

Protocole No. 37.—Séance du $\frac{31 \text{ Janvier}}{12 \text{ Février}}$ 1879 (20 *Sepher*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 36, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V: "de l'Assemblée Provinciale."

Le Baron de Ring annonce qu'après de nouvelles conférences privées il a cru devoir refondre encore une fois les amendements présentés par lui aux Articles 37 et suivants du Chapitre V, et introduire dans la section traitant du Comité Permanent deux Articles complémentaires. Le plus important de ces Articles destiné à devenir l'Article 41 statue que les pouvoirs attribués au Comité Permanent en matière de législation sont suspendus pendant les Sessions de l'Assemblée Provinciale, tandis que ses attributions administratives continuent à subsister pendant que l'Assemblée se trouve réunie.

Le Baron de Ring donne lecture de son travail:

"VI.—*Comité Permanent.*

"Art. 37. Le Comité Permanent se compose de neuf membres titulaires et de trois membres suppléants.

"Ils sont élus au scrutin de liste par tous les Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale indistinctement.

"Pour la nomination des Membres titulaires du Comité Permanent nul bulletin ne peut contenir plus de cinq noms; pour celle des membres suppléants, nul bulletin ne peut en contenir plus de deux.

"Le Comité Permanent est renouvelé au commencement de chaque Session ordinaire. Si dans le courant d'une Session soit ordinaire, soit extraordinaire, un siége ou une suppléance vient à vaquer, il y est pourvu immédiatement. Si la vacance se produit dans l'intervalle d'une Session à l'autre, il y est pourvu à la plus prochaine Session, qu'elle soit ordinaire ou extraordinaire.

Tous les membres du Comité Permanent, titulaires et suppléants, sont indéfiniment rééligibles.

"Les membres suppléants sont appelés à siéger d'après un ordre fixé, au moment de leur élection, par la voie du sort.

"Les membres titulaires reçoivent une indemnité de £ T. par an.

"Art. 38. Le Comité Permanent a un Président, un Vice-Président, et un Secrétaire élus par lui.

Pour qu'il délibère valablement la présence de sept membres au moins est nécessaire.

"Art. 39. Les Chefs de communautés religieuses qui sont Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale mais ne font pas partie du Comité Permanent, ont droit de prendre part avec voix consultative aux délibérations du Comité ayant trait aux intérêts de leur communauté. Le Président du Comité devra chaque fois les avertir trois jours à l'avance, à peine de nullité des décisions qui seraient prises en leur absence.

"Art. 40. Le Comité Permanent règle les affairs qui lui sont renvoyées par l'Assemblée Provinciale dans la limite de la délégation qui lui est faite.

"Il délibère sur toutes les questions qui lui sont déférées par la loi.

"Il donne son avis au Gouverneur-Général sur toutes les questions que celui-ci soumet ou sur lesquelles il croit devoir appeler son attention dans l'intérêt de la province.

"Les Chefs de service appartenant aux différentes Administrations publiques de la province et des départements sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit au Comité permanent tous les renseignements qu'il réclamera d'eux sur les questions intéressant la province, et de lui communiquer, sur sa demande écrite et contre reçu, toute pièce de comptabilité concernant les finances provinciales.

"Le Comité Permanent est en droit de proposer à l'Assemblée Provinciale la mise en accusation de tout fonctionnaire de la Roumélie Orientale pour crimes contre la chose publique.

"Il reçoit quinze jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session ordinaire annuelle, communication du projet de budget, ainsi que des comptes du dernier exercice, et prend connaissance de toutes pièces et documents à l'appui.

"Il prépare et présente à l'Assemblée des Rapports, tant sur le projet de budget et sur les comptes que sur l'ensemble de ses propres travaux.

"Il ouvre au Gouverneur-Général, en cas d'urgence, des crédits supplémentaires, lorsqu'il est justifié que les fonds affectés à un service porté au budget sont insuffisant, et des crédits extraordinaires, lorsqu'il est nécessaire de pourvoir à des services qui ne pourraient pas être prévus et réglés par le budget. Les ouvertures de crédit ne peuvent être décidées que par une majorité de six voix au moins.

"Art. 41. Durant les Sessions de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le droit du Comité Permanent d'établir conjointement avec le Gouverneur-Général, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article 10 du Chapitre I, des règlements d'Administration publique, 'pour satisfaire à des besoins urgents,' est suspendu."

Le Président relit l'alinéa premier de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

"Art. 37. Le Comité Permanent se compose de neuf membres titulaires et de trois membres suppléants."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il ne pourra pas voter les chiffres indiqués dans cet amendement, l'entente n'ayant pu s'établir encore au sujet de la composition de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Il propose en conséquence le sous-amendement suivant :

"Art. 37. Le Comité Permanent se compose de. . . membres titulaires et de. . . membres suppléants."

Ce sous-amendement, mis aux voix, est rejeté par les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie.

Les Délégués de Russie votent pour.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord ait pu se faire entre les Commissaires, et il croit pouvoir assurer qu'il acceptera alors avec plaisir le résultat de l'entente.

M. Vernoni réserve également son vote.

En conséquence le sous-amendement du Prince Tzeretelew est rejeté.

Le Président met aux voix l'alinéa premier de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance).

Cinq Commissaires acceptent cet alinéa.

Les Délégués d'Allemagne et de Russie réservent leur vote.

L'alinéa reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le second alinéa de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

"Ils sont élus au scrutin de liste par tous les Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale indistinctement."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit le troisième alinéa de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

"Pour la nomination des membres titulaires du Comité Permanent, nul bulletin ne peut contenir plus de cinq noms ; pour celle des membres suppléants, nul bulletin ne peut en contenir plus de deux."

Vu la connexité du troisième alinéa avec le premier, *le Prince Tzeretelew* dépose le sous-amendement suivant :

"Pour la nomination des membres titulaires du Comité Permanent, nul bulletin ne peut contenir plus de . . . noms ; pour celle des membres suppléants, nul bulletin ne peut en contenir plus de . . ."

Ce sous-amendement, mis aux voix, est rejeté par *les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, la Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie.*

Les Délégués de Russie votent pour.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord ait pu se faire entre les Commissaires.

M. Vernoni réserve également son vote.

En conséquence le sous-amendement du Prince Tzeretelew est rejeté.

Le Président met aux voix le troisième alinéa de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

Cinq Commissaires acceptent cet alinéa.

Les Délégués d'Allemagne et de Russie réservent leur vote.

L'alinéa reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les quatrième et cinquième alinéas de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

"Le Comité Permanent est renouvelé au commencement de chaque Session ordinaire. Si dans le courant d'une Session soit ordinaire, soit extraordinaire, un siége ou une suppléance vient à vaquer, il y est pourvu immédiatement. Si la vacance se produit dans l'intervalle d'une Session à l'autre, il y est pourvu à la plus prochaine Session, qu'elle soit ordinaire ou extraordinaire.

"Tous les membres du Comité Permanent, titulaires et suppléants, sont indéfiniment rééligibles."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le sixième alinéa de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :

"Les membres suppléants sont appelés à siéger d'après un ordre fixé, au moment de leur élection, par la voie du sort."

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait observer que si l'on accepte l'alinéa qui vient d'être lu, la majorité dans le Comité Permanent pourra, à un moment donné, dépendre d'un pur hasard :—"Au cas où le nombre de neuf membres constituant le Comité Permanent et le mode d'élection de ces membres proposés par le Baron de Ring seraient définitivement admis," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "la majorité de l'Assemblée serait représentée dans le Comité par cinq membres et la minorité par quatre. Il suffirait donc de l'entrée d'un membre suppléant appartenant à la minorité de l'Assemblée, pour changer la minorité du Comité en majorité ; l'entrée éventuelle d'un membre suppléant pris dans la majorité de l'Assemblée ne ferait, au contraire, que diminuer d'une voix la force de la minorité. Je propose, en conséquence, de revenir au deuxième alinéa du sous-amendement déposé par le Baron de Ring à la dernière séance et conçu en ces termes :

"'Les membres suppléants sont appelés à siéger suivant l'ordre d'un Tableau sur lequel ils seront classés d'après le nombre des suffrages qu'ils auront obtenus.'"

Le Baron de Ring reconnaît jusqu'à un certain point la justesse des observations du Prince Tzeretelew. Il estime néanmoins que du moment où l'on assurerait à la majorité de l'Assemblée Provinciale deux Membres suppléants, tandis que la minorité n'en aurait qu'un seul, la chance de voir cette majorité privée de sa prépondérance légitime au sein du Comité Permanent serait peu à craindre, même si l'on abandonnait au hasard le soin de fixer le roulement des trois suppléants. Afin de dissiper toutefois les appréhensions du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, il se déclare prêt à proposer,

sous forme de sous-amendement à son Amendement No. 3 déposé au début de la séance, une combinaison de nature à prévenir toute malice du sort :

"*Sous-Amendement.*

"Chaque membre titulaire est en droit de désigner, au moment de leur élection, l'ordre suivant lequel les membres suppléants seront éventuellement appelés à le remplacer."

Le Prince Tzeretelew, qui partage l'avis de son collègue de France, retire son sous-amendement.

Le sous amendement du Baron de Ring, mis aux voix, est adopté par la Commission.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le septième alinéa de l'Article 37 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Les membres titulaires reçoivent une indemnité de £. T. par an."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 38 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Art. 38. Le Comité Permanent a un Président, un Vice-Président, et un Secrétaire élus par lui. Pour qu'il délibère valablement, la présence de sept membres au moins est nécessaire."

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

M. de Braunschweig, tout en reconnaissant la justesse du principe même de l'Article que vient d'être lu, réserve son vote vu la connexité de cet Article avec les premier et troisième alinéas de l'Article 37, auxquels il n'a point encore donné son adhésion.

Les Commissaires de Russie réservent aussi, pour la même raison, leur vote sur l'Article 38.

L'Article 38 reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 39 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Art. 39. Les Chefs de communautés religieuses qui sont Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale, mais ne font pas partie du Comité Permanent, ont droit de prendre part avec voix consultative aux délibérations du Comité ayant trait aux intérêts de leur communauté. Le Président du Comité devra chaque fois les avertir trois jours à l'avance, à peine de nullité des décisions qui seraient prises en leur absence."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le premier alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Art. 40. Le Comité Permanent règle les affaires qui lui sont renvoyées par l'Assemblée Provinciale dans la limite de la délégation qui lui est faite."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le second alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Il délibère sur toutes les questions qui lui sont déférées par la loi."

La Commission adopte.

Les Commissaires de Russie constatent que l'alinéa qui vient d'être adopté n'exclut pas la possibilité de donner au Comité Permanent, si tous les Commissaires tombent d'accord, une voix consultative pour la nomination de certains fonctionnaires et surtout des juges.

Le Président rélit et met aux voix le troisième alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Il donne son avis au Gouverneur-Général sur toutes les questions que celui-ci soumet ou sur lesquelles il croit devoir appeler son attention dans l'intérêt de la province."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit le quatrième alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance) :—

"Les Chefs du service appartenant aux différentes Administrations publiques de la province et des départements sont tenus de fournir, verbalement ou par écrit, au Comité Permanent, tous les renseignements qu'il réclamera d'eux sur les questions intéressant la province et de lui communiquer, sur sa demande écrite et contre reçu, toute pièce de comptabilité concernant les finances provinciales."

M. de Kallay voudrait que le Comité Permanent ne pût entrer en rapports directs qu'avec les Administrateurs-Généraux. De graves inconvénients se produiraient, à son avis, si l'on donnait au Comité le droit d'interroger tous les fonctionnaires du pays : "Etablir une surveillance directe du Comité Permanent sur les actes des fonctionnaires serait," dit le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "ériger le Comité en organe administratif supérieur à côté des Administrateurs-Généraux. En demandant que les fonctionnaires subalternes ne puissent être cités devant le Comité Permanent autrement que par l'entremise des Administrateurs-Généraux, je ne désire nullement amoindrir le droit de contrôle attribué au Comité. Il ne faut pas oublier que le Comité Permanent ne participe pas directement à l'Administration ; on ne saurait donc lui permettre d'appeler devant lui les fonctionnaires sans que ceux-ci en reçoivent l'ordre d'un des Administrateurs-Généraux."

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à M. de Kallay que, d'après son Amendement No. 3, le Comité Permanent ne serait autorisé à interroger que les Chefs des différents services et non tous les fonctionnaires indistinctement. Il craindrait que si l'on établissait que le Comité Permanent ne peut s'adresser qu'aux Administrateurs-Généraux, le contrôle à exercer sur l'administration n'en souffrit.

Le Prince Tzeretelew adhère à l'opinion du Baron de Ring : "Les Administrateurs-Généraux," ajoute-t-il, "étant irresponsables devant l'Assemblée Provinciale, il est nécessaire d'instituer un contrôle direct et efficace sur leurs actes. Si le Comité ne peut entrer en rapports qu'avec les Administrateurs-Généraux, il sera toujours facile pour ceux-ci de faire le silence sur une affaire qu'ils auraient intérêt à étouffer. La seule garantie contre cette dernière éventualité, c'est-à-dire, la mise en accusation de l'Administrateur-Général lui-même ne saurait être un remède bien efficace, car il est peu probable que l'on ait volontiers recours à un moyen aussi extrême."

Abro Effendi : "Messieurs, d'après le Statut que nous élaborons, il y aura à la tête de l'Administration Provinciale un Gouverneur-Général responsable assisté de Directeurs-Généraux également responsables. Quoiqu'en principe nous trouvions dangereux de donner au Comité Permanent le droit de mettre en accusation tout fonctionnaire de la province, nous ne soulèverons pas de difficultés à ce sujet pour ne pas entraver la marche des travaux de la Commission.

"Nous croyons par contre qu'il faudrait entourer l'exercice de ce droit de certaines garanties et notamment sauvegarder l'autorité des Administrateurs-Généraux vis-à-vis de leurs employés. Si l'autorité des premiers est incomplète, et elle le sera certainement si le Comité peut sans prévenir ces chefs responsables d'adresser directement à n'importe quel fonctionnaire pour faire une enquête sur un acte dont celui-ci est irresponsable ou n'est responsable hiérarchiquement que vis-à-vis de ses supérieurs, l'administration deviendra impossible.

"Nous devons aussi ne pas perdre de vue que certains membres du Comité Permanent seront peut-être tentés d'abuser de leurs pouvoirs ; ils seront au bout du compte des hommes faillibles et non des saints incapables de tromper ou de se tromper. D'un autre côté, si nous ne tenons pas compte de l'ordre hiérarchique, nous exposerons les fonctionnaires à commettre bien souvent des fautes.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff propose de faire suivre l'alinéa que l'on discute par un autre ainsi conçu :—

"Le Comité Permanent s'adresse aux Chefs de service autres que les Administrateurs-Généraux par l'intermédiaire de ces fonctionnaires, qui ont le devoir de tenir la main à ce que les renseignements et pièces demandées par le Comité Permanent lui soient promptement et exactement fournis."

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit que cette disposition calmera les appréhensions de M. de Kallay et sera acceptable pour tous les Commissaires.

Le Président met aux voix le quatrième alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance), et le nouvel alinéa proposé par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff qui prendra le No. 5.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit le cinquième alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance). Cet alinéa prendra le No. 6 :—

"Le Comité Permanent est en droit de proposer à l'Assemblée Provinciale la mise en accusation de tout fonctionnaire de la Roumélie Orientale pour crimes contre la chose publique."

M. de Kallay: "Tout en admettant la disposition en vertu de laquelle le Comité Permanent aura le droit de proposer à l'Assemblée Provinciale la mise en accusation des fonctionnaires, je ne voudrais pas que ce droit fut réservé exclusivement au Comité durant les Sessions mêmes de l'Assemblée. Pendant les intervalles des Sessions ce droit sera nécessaire et même indispensable dans un pays tel que celui où nous nous trouvons; mais une fois l'Assemblée réunie on ne saurait donner à certains des membres de celle-ci un pouvoir que n'exerceraient pas tous les autres, à moins que la Chambre elle-même ne déléguât ce pouvoir à une Commission choisie *ad hoc*."

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à M. de Kallay que, d'après son Amendement No. 3, le Comité Permanent n'aura pas le droit de mettre en accusation les fonctionnaires, mais qu'il sera seulement autorisé à proposer leur mise en accusation. Le Comité étant investi du contrôle immédiat de l'Administration se trouvera à même de réunir les éléments sur lesquels les poursuites devront s'appuyer; il ne proposera donc jamais celles-ci à la légère, comme pourrait le faire un Membre isolé de l'Assemblée, ou un groupe de Députés privé du moyen de se former un dossier sérieux.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il partage entièrement l'opinion du Baron de Ring.

Le cinquième alinéa de l'Article 40, mis aux voix par *le Président*, est adopté par la Commission.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les sixième et septième alinéas de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance). Ces alinéas prendront les Nos. 7 et 8:—

"Il reçoit, quinze jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session ordinaire annuelle, communication du projet de budget ainsi que des comptes du dernier exercice, et prend connaissance de toutes pièces et documents à l'appui.

"Il prépare et présente à l'Assemblée des Rapports tant sur le projet de budget et sur les comptes que sur l'ensemble de ses propres travaux."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le huitième alinéa de l'Article 40 (amendement déposé au début de la séance). Cet alinéa prendra le No. 9:—

"Il ouvre au Gouverneur-Général, en cas d'urgence, des crédits supplémentaires, lorsqu'il est justifié que les fonds affectés à un service porté au budget sont insuffisants."

Cinq Commissaires acceptent cet alinéa.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne réserve son vote, vu la connexité qui existe entre cet alinéa et ceux auxquels il n'a pas encore donné son adhésion.

Les Commissaires de Russie réservent aussi, pour la même raison, leur vote sur le neuvième alinéa.

En conséquence, le neuvième alinéa reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 41 (amendement présenté au début de la séance):—

"Article 41. Durant les Sessions de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le droit du Comité Permanent d'établir, conjointement avec le Gouverneur-Général, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article 10 du Chapitre I, des règlements d'administration publique pour satisfaire à des besoins urgents, est suspendu."

Cinq Commissaires acceptent cet Article.

Le Délégué d'Italie réserve son vote jusqu'à l'acceptation par les Commissaires de Russie des alinéas laissés ouverts pendant la séance.

Les Commissaires de Turquie réservent également leur vote sur l'Article 41.

En conséquence l'Article 41 reste ouvert.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente et unième séance et conçue en ces termes: "6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha?"

Sur la proposition de *Sir Henry Drummond Wolff*, le débat est remis à la prochaine séance. Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne ajoute que d'ici là il espère que les difficultés rencontrées par la Commission dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche financière seront aplanies.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la motion suivante déposée par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff à la trente-sixième séance:

"*Motion.*

"Considérant la difficulté qu'il y a d'arriver à des résolutions, quand ces résolutions, pour être obligatoires, doivent être prises à l'unanimité.

"La Commission décide d'accepter le principe de la majorité pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique. En même temps elle décrète que la Statut Organique qu'elle élabore en ce moment pourra être révisé par le Gouverneur-Général, de concert avec l'Assemblée Provinciale, quand celle-ci aura été entièrement renouvelée, c'est-à-dire après deux élections de renouvellement, et que le Statut ainsi révisé sera soumis à l'acceptation de la Sublime Porte ainsi qu'à celle des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, représentées par leurs Ambassadeurs et Ministres à Constantinople."

"La motion que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre appréciation," dit le *Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne*, "n'a été faite que pour arriver dans le plus bref délai à la fin de notre tâche.

"Nous n'avons qu'un seul objet en vue; fonder ici un ensemble d'institutions basées sur des principes équitables et qui, d'après les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, assure à cette province un Gouvernement stable, et une sécurité complète.

"Je crois que nous sommes pénétrés de l'importance de notre mission, et avons fait notre possible pour remplir notre mandat avec la plus grande impartialité. Mais le droit de véto dont nous pouvons chacun user a eu pour résultat une lenteur regrettable dans nos travaux, lésant en quelque sorte les intérêts importants, qui nous étaient confiés.

"Je crois qu'une des raisons pour lesquelles certains de nos collègues ont usé souvent de leur droit de véto était l'hésitation qu'ils éprouvaient a imposer à la population de ce pays, pour une période indéfinie, des institutions à la définition desquelles elle ne pouvait participer.

"Ils n'eussent peut-être pas agi de la sorte, s'ils avaient eu la certitude que le Statut Organique pourrait être révisé au bout de quatre années.

"Si, comme je le propose, le Statut n'était pas immuable mais devait être soumis de nouveau, dans quatre ans, à l'appréciation du Gouverneur-Général et du peuple, l'autorité du pays et les représentants de la population ayant acquis alors une expérience approfondie, se rendraient facilement compte des changements et des amendements vraiment utiles pour la province.

"Si ma motion est votée, nous pourrons considérablement abréger et faciliter le rôle de nos Gouvernements, en leur soumettant promptement une œuvre complète, au lieu d'un travail mal joint, décousu et rempli de lacunes, de réserves, et de contradictions."

M. de Braunschweig dit qu'il ne considère pas la Commission comme compétente pour imposer aux Gouvernements ou à leurs Représentants à Constantinople le devoir de réviser au bout d'un certain laps de temps le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale et qu'il doit, à son vif regret, s'abstenir de voter la motion proposée par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

M. de Kallay désire, comme Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, hâter autant que possible les travaux de la Commission et, dans ce but, il est prêt à accepter la première partie de la proposition de son collègue de la Grande Bretagne, celle qui tend à remplacer pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique le vote à l'unanimité par le vote à la majorité. Mais il ne croit pas possible de stipuler que le Statut Organique sera soumis à une révision au bout de quatre années. A son avis, les Puissances représentées au Congrès de Berlin avaient en vue de fonder dans la Roumélie Orientale un ordre de choses stable et d'éviter de nouvelles complications. "Je voudrais," dit M. de Kallay, "que les deux questions contenues dans la motion de mon collègue d'Angleterre fussent scindées; je me rangerais alors d'autant plus volontiers à l'opinion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff sur la majorité, que l'expérience de cinq mois nous prouve que c'est grâce à la nécessité dans laquelle nous nous trouvons de concilier souvent les opinions les plus divergentes pour arriver à une entente unanime, que nos travaux marchent avec lenteur; encore les points principaux restent-ils pour la plupart ouverts. L'évacuation de la Roumélie Orientale par les troupes Russes arrivera bientôt sans que le pays soit organisé, et cette perspective est trop redoutable pour que nous n'ayions pas à en tenir compte.

Le Colonel Schepelew ne partage pas l'avis de son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie sur l'utilité pratique du vote par majorité pour les questions touchant le Statut Organique: —"Si j'interprète exactement la pensée de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff," dit le Premier Commissaire de Russie, sa motion tend à hâter l'élaboration du Statut. Ce but, auquel je m'associe sincèrement, me paraît pourtant bien plus difficile à atteindre si l'on substitue le vote obligatoire par majorité à celui par l'unanimité que nous avons adopté au commencement de nos travaux.

"Mon collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie pense qu'en acceptant les Articles du Statut à la majorité nous pourrions travailler plus facilement, et finir beaucoup plus tôt notre tâche d'organisation, en laissant à nos Gouvernements le soin de s'entendre sur les questions qui resteraient ouvertes. Ceci est parfaitement juste, et j'admets que pour nous, Commissaires, ce mode de procédure serait plus commode en ce sens qu'il abrégerait la durée de nos travaux. Mais je ferai observer qu'en agissant de la sorte, nous laisserions incontestablement un plus grand nombre d'Articles ouverts que ce n'est le cas avec le vote à l'unanimité; et que l'entente qui devrait s'établir par la voie diplomatique entre nos Gouvernements sur une multitude d'Articles, serait plus longue à établir qu'un accord direct entre nous.

"En un mot, il me paraît hors de doute qu'en acceptant la motion de M. le Délégué Britannique, non-seulement nous n'avancerions pas d'un seul jour la sanction définitive du Statut, ce qui à mes yeux a une portée bien plus grave que la question de la durée de nos travaux, mais qu'au contraire nous ne ferions que la retarder. C'est justement pour éviter cet inconvénient que je suis d'avis de nous en tenir au vote à l'unanimité, en vue duquel nous serons plus portés à nous entendre sur les questions importantes, en ne réservant à nos Gouvernements qu'un nombre restreint d'Articles."

Le Chevalier Vernoni partage l'avis de son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie, et croit que la Commission doit mettre toute la hâte possible à achever ses travaux. "Il est désirable," dit le Commissaire d'Italie, "que la Commission puisse avoir accompli sa tâche avant que les trois mois de prorogation qui lui ont été consentis ne soient entièrement écoulés, pour que l'opinion publique de l'Europe ne puisse attribuer à la lenteur des travaux de la Commission aucun des graves inconvénients qu'on pourrait craindre, si le Règlement Organique n'était complétement élaboré, au moins quelque temps avant l'époque fixée pour l'évacuation de la province. La promptitude avec laquelle nous terminerons nos travaux est un des principaux éléments de leur réussite.

"Je suis prêt," continue-t-il, "à scinder comme M. de Kallay, les deux questions contenues dans la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et à accepter le vote à la majorité des voix pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique. Mais pour ce qui est de la révision du Statut, je ne crois pas que la Commission puisse l'imposer aux Gouvernements, et je ne pourrai, en conséquence, donner mon adhésion à la deuxième partie de la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff."

Le Prince Tzeretelew: "Si j'ai bien compris l'idée de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff les deux parties de sa motion, que MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie voudraient scinder sont au contraire étroitement liées. Il ne serait en effet possible de faire le sacrifice de ses opinions sur certains points controversés, que s'il était admis que les dispositions du Statut Organique seront provisoires.

"Je dois néanmoins m'opposer à la première comme à la seconde partie de la motion de mon collègue de la Grande Bretagne. D'un côté, au sein d'une Commission Internationale aucun des Gouvernements ne peut abdiquer ses droits en se soumettant d'avance à une sorte de Tribunal, de l'autre, le Traité de Berlin n'établit pas que notre œuvre doive avoir un caractère provisoire. Enfin, en adoptant la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff nous sortirions, je crois, des limites de notre compétence.

"Il n'est d'ailleurs nullement prouvé que le vote à la majorité des voix hâterait l'achèvement de nos travaux; ce système n'aurait en fait d'autre résultat que celui d'obliger nos Cabinets respectifs à s'entendre directement sur les points principaux, tâche qui au contraire nous est spécialement dévolue.

"Tout en nous opposant à la motion du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, nous reconnaissons la valeur de quelques arguments dont il s'est servi. Aussi, afin d'activer la marche des travaux, nous admettrions volontiers que les détails des différents Chapitres du Statut Organique fussent votés à la majorité des voix, une fois que l'on serait entendu sur les questions. D'autre part nous sommes d'avis qu'il serait utile de faire sur certaines matières des règlements provisoires qui pourraient être modifiés avec le temps par l'Assemblée Provinciale."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff déclare retirer la motion qui vient d'être discutée.

Il se félicite d'avoir eu cette occasion d'exprimer ses idées sur une des

questions les plus importantes pour l'avenir de l'œuvre de la Commission, et espère qu'on parviendra à trouver un autre moyen d'activer l'élaboration du Statut Organique.

L'ordre du jour appelle la seconde motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, déposée à la trente-sixième séance.

Le Président juge utile de la retire:

"*Motion.*

"La Commission décide de prier les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein de nommer une Commission Militaire chargée de lui apporter le concours de ses lumières pour l'organisation de la milice et de la gendarmerie, ainsi que pour toutes les mesures à prendre pour prévenir le désordre qui pourrait éclater après le départ des forces Russes, à l'époque fixée par le Traité de Berlin pour l'évacuation définitive de la province."

"En faisant cette motion," dit le *Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne*, "j'avais en vue, d'un côté de nous procurer des lumières spéciales pour la question de la milice et de la gendarmerie, et de l'autre de parer aux dangers qui résulteront de l'évacuation du pays par les troupes Russes. Après avoir entendu les opinions exprimées par plusieurs de mes collègues au sujet de ma première motion, je suis prêt à scinder les deux parties dont se compose aussi la seconde, et à en retrancher tout ce qui se rapporte aux mesures à prendre en vue de désordres pouvant éclater éventuellement dans la province."

Le Chevalier Vernoni: "Le Gouvernement que j'ai l'honneur de représenter dans la Commission considère que celle-ci ne peut discuter des questions qui ne sont pas strictement comprises dans le cercle de la compétence qui lui a été assignée par le Traité de Berlin et je ne me crois pas autorisé, pour ma part, à réclamer le concours d'une Commission Militaire qui viendrait s'établir à côté de la nôtre.

Le Baron de Ring pense que pour profiter des lumières de MM. les Attachés Militaires à Constantinople la Commission n'a pas besoin de demander aux Gouvernements de réunir ces messieurs en Commission Spéciale. Si les Ambassades les chargeaient de prêter sous une forme quelconque leur concours à la Commission, le but qu'a en vue Sir Henry Drummond Wolff serait atteint.

Le Prince Tzeretelew partage l'avis du Commissaire de France. L'utilité d'une Commission Militaire chargée d'élaborer les Chapitres de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie est d'ailleurs, d'après lui, douteuse, car ces mêmes Chapitres devront être revus et modifiés par la Commission au point de vue de leur concordance avec les autres Chapitres.

Pour ce qui est de l'urgence d'aviser aux dangers qui résulteront du départ des troupes Russes, le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, tout en reconnaissant la gravité de la question, croit qu'elle est entièrement liée avec celle de l'exécution ou de la non exécution de l'œuvre de la Commission. Il serait donc désirable qu'à la fin de ses travaux la Commission pût énoncer certains avis et suggérer certaines mesures destinées à assurer l'application du Statut Organique.

M. de Coutouly propose l'amendement suivant à la motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff:—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission invite ses membres à prier les Ambassadeurs et Ministres représentant leurs Gouvernements respectifs auprès de la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien charger leurs Attachés Militaires de l'aider pour l'élaboration des Articles du Statut Organique concernant la Milice et la Gendarmerie."

Trois Commissaires acceptent cet amendement.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Italie, de Russie, et de Turquie s'abstiennent.

En conséquence l'amendement de M. de Coutouly est rejeté.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff retire sa motion.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 15 Février:—

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V: "de l'Assemblée Provinciale;"

2. La sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente et unième séance et conçue en ces termes: "6. Quelle

réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha?"

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signed) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'orignal :
(Signé) ROSET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 271.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 90.) *Philippopolis, February 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the Project for the VIth Chapter, prepared by the French Commissioner.

Baron de Ring has, your Lordship will perceive, taken very great pains with the scheme, and I am in great hopes that the discussion will be limited to certain points, and that the bulk of the Articles will be passed rapidly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 271.

CHAPITRE VI.—DES SUBDIVISIONS DE LA PROVINCE ET DE LEUR ADMINISTRATION.

I.—*Divisions Administratives de la Province.*

Article 1er. La Roumélie Orientale est divisée en six départements et en vingt et un cantons, conformément à la carte annexée au présent Statut.

Les cantons sont divisés en communes urbaines et rurales, ayant chacune sa propre circonscription territoriale.

Les communes urbaines sont celles qui ont été réputées telles dans le pays *ab antiquo*. Une commune rurale ne peut être érigée en commune urbaine que par une loi.

Art. 2. Les six départements sont ceux de Philippopoli, de Tatar-Bazardjik, de Haskeui, d'Eski-Zaghra, de Slivno, et de Bourgas.

Les vingt et un cantons sont ceux de Philippopoli (sud), de Philippopoli (nord), et de Rahova; de Tatar-Bazardjik, d'Ichtiman, de Panagurichte, et de Karlova; d'Eski-Zaghra, de Kézanlik, de Kalofer, et de Tchirpan; de Slivno, de Yamboli, de Yéni-Zaghra, et de Kizil-Yénidjé; de Haskeui, de Harmanli, et de Gabrova; de Bourgas, d'Aïdos, et de Karnabat.

Art. 3. Les circonscriptions administratives de la province, y compris celles des communes, ne peuvent être changées que par une loi.

II.—*Du Département. Administration Départementale.*

Art. 4. Le département est administré par un Préfet assisté d'un Conseil de Préfecture, composé d'un Secrétaire de Préfecture et de deux Conseillers.

Ces fonctionnaires sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Le Préfet prend l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture sur toutes les matières où l'avis de celui-ci est exigé par les lois et les règlements d'administration publique. Il peut en outre déférer à son examen toute affaire de son choix. Pourtant il est seul responsable de ses actes, que ceux-ci soient conformes ou non à l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture.

Art. 5. Le Préfet représente le Gouverneur-Général dans le Département.

Il peut prendre des Arrêtés, et prescrire des mesures obligatoires pour la totalité ou partie des habitants du département, en conformité des lois et règlements d'administration publique en vigueur dans la province, ainsi que des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général.

Il nomme ceux des fonctionnaires et employés qui lui sont subordonnés, dont la nomination n'est pas réservée au Gouverneur-Général ou au Bailli, ou qui ne sont pas électifs. Il est le Chef de la Police dans le département, et peut au besoin requérir la force publique.

Il est chargé d'élever le conflit devant l'autorité judiciaire pour les affaires de la compétence de l'autorité administrative. Il rend exécutoires les rôles des contributions directes légalement dressés et arrêtés.

Il exerce la tutelle administrative sur les communes et sur les établissements d'utilité publique non religieux, jouissant de la qualité de personne juridique et morale.

Il accorde ou refuse son autorisation à la création d'établissements dangereux, incommodes, ou insalubres, sauf recours de l'impétrant au Gouverneur-Général, en cas de refus d'autorisation, et l'opposition des tiers intéressés devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

Il ordonne la suspension de travaux de mines ou la fermeture d'une exploitation des mines lorsque des puits ou galeries ont été ouverts contrairement aux lois et règlements, sauf le même recours.

Il frappe d'interdiction les moulins situés à la frontière de la province lorsqu'il est établi qu'ils servent à la contrebande des grains et farines. Pour ce cas, les parties se prétendant lésées ont un recours devant le Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics.

Le Préfet statue en outre sur toutes les affaires départementales et communales énumérées dans les Tableaux A, B, C, D, annexés au présent Statut et généralement sur toutes les affaires départementales et communales qui ne sont pas réservées à la compétence du Gouverneur-Général de la province, du Conseil-Général du département, de la Commission Départementale, ou des Municipalités. Les Tableaux ci-dessus visés peuvent être modifiés par la législation provinciale.

Art. 6. Le Préfet exécute les ordres des Administrateurs-Généraux de la province, dans la sphère de la compétence attribuée à ceux-ci; il correspond directement avec eux pour les affaires de leur ressort.

Il transmet aux autorités inférieures les décisions, règlements, et instructions de l'autorité supérieure.

Il prend des informations pour les Administrateurs-Généraux, leur donne son avis, leur fait des propositions.

Il surveille la marche des divers services publics.

Art. 7. Le Préfet met à exécution les délibérations du Conseil-Général du département ainsi que celles de la Commission Départementale, et provoque, en suivant les voies de droit, l'annulation des délibérations illégales de ces corps.

Art. 8. Le Secrétaire de Préfecture est chargé de la surveillance des employés dans les bureaux du Préfet. Il est aussi chargé de l'enregistrement et de la conservation des pièces, de la signature des ampliations des actes administratifs, et des décisions du Conseil de Préfecture.

Il remplit les fonctions de Bailli dans le canton du chef-lieu du département.

Il peut recevoir du Préfet des délégations temporaires qui lui confèrent une partie de l'administration du département; ces délégations, pour avoir un caractère permanent, doivent être approvées par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Le Secrétaire de Préfecture exerce auprès du Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif du département les fonctions de Commissaire du Gouvernement, et donne des conclusions dans les affaires contentieuses.

Art. 9. Le Préfet, quand il s'absente du département, peut se faire représenter par le Secrétaire de Préfecture ou par un Conseiller de Préfecture à son choix.

En cas de vacance du poste, le Préfet est remplacé intérimairement par le Secrétaire de Préfecture.

Art. 10. Le Préfet peut déléguer un Conseiller de Préfecture pour le représenter

dans certaines opérations administratives, lorqu'il y est autorisé par une disposition législative ou réglementaire, et pour remplacer, s'il y a urgence, un Bailli en cas d'absence, d'empêchement, ou de vacance d'emploi.

Art. 11. Il existe dans chaque département un Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

Ce Tribunal est composé (1) de trois votants, savoir; un Juge au Tribunal Civil du département, désigné au commencement de chaque année pour la durée de celle-ci par la voie du sort, un Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale, choisi par la dite Assemblée pour deux ans, et le plus ancien des Conseillers de Préfecture; (2) de trois assistants, savoir; un Juge Suppléant au Tribunal Civil du département, ainsi qu'un Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale nommés comme les votants de leur catégorie respective, et le moins ancien des Conseillers de Préfecture.

Le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif est présidé par le votant Juge, ou, à son défaut, par l'Assistant Juge ou Juge Suppléant. Les deux autres assistants suppléent les votants de la catégorie à laquelle ils appartiennent respectivement. En outre l'Assistant Conseiller de Préfecture est chargé de faire des rapports au Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif sur les affaires qui lui sont soumises; il est secondé dans cet office par un employé choisi à cet effet dans la personne des bureaux de la Préfecture.

Art. 12. Le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif statue sur les réclamations des collectivités ou des particuliers se prétendant lésés par un acte administratif spécial ou par un fait particulier de l'administration et qui invoquent un droit acquis se rapportant à un intérêt de l'ordre administratif.

Il statue aussi sur les contestations entre l'Administration et les particuliers à raison de contrats ou marchés conclus et arrêtés par l'autorité publique dans le département.

Art. 13. Les séances du Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif sont publiques.

Art. 14. Tous les jugements rendus par le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif, hors les cas où il aurait statué comme Tribunal d'Appel en vertu de dispositions législatives ou réglementaires, sont susceptibles d'être déférés en appel à la Cour Supérieure de Contentieux Administratif.

Art. 15. Une loi provinciale déterminera les formes et les délais de la procédure devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif ainsi que les délais du recours à la Cour Supérieure de Contentieux Administratif.

Représentation Départementale.

Art. 16. Chaque département a un Conseil Général, qui élit dans son sein une Commission Départementale.

Ce Conseil se compose:

1. De membres de droit, savoir, le Mufti en fonctions au chef-lieu du département, les Chefs spirituels des communautés religieuses reconnues qui y ont des églises ou des synagogues, le Président du Tribunal Civil du département;

2. De membres électifs en nombre quintuple des cantons que comprend le département;

3. De membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général en nombre égal à celui des dits cantons.

Les fonctions de Conseiller-Général sont gratuites.

Art. 17. Pour être électeur départemental ou éligible au Conseil Général il faut remplir les conditions requises pour prendre part aux élections provinciales ou pour être nommé Membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à prendre les Conseillers-Généraux qu'il a pouvoir de désigner dans les mêmes catégories de personnes que les membres qu'il a le droit d'envoyer à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Art. 18. Pour les élections au Conseil Général les listes électorales sont dressées de la même manière que pour les élections à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Les pouvoirs des Conseillers-Généraux électifs sont vérifiés de la même manière que ceux des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Le bureau du Conseil Général est formé suivant les mêmes règles que celui de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Art. 19. Le Conseil Général fait son réglement intérieur. Le Préfet et ses délégués ont entrée au Conseil; ils doivent être entendus sur leur demande. Les séances sont publiques, à moins que trois membres ne demandent le huis clos. Le

Président a seul la police de l'Assemblée. Le Conseil Général doit tenir des procès-verbaux de ses séances.

Toute délibération prise en dehors des séances prévues ou autorisées par la loi est de nul effet.

Art. 20. Il n'y a pas incompatibilité entre les fonctions de Conseiller-Général et celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Une même personne ne peut pas être simultanément membre de deux Conseils-Généraux; elle ne peut non plus représenter deux cantons au sein du même Conseil. Si elle est élue par deux ou plusieurs cantons, elle doit opter pour l'un d'eux.

Art. 21. Les élections pour les Conseils Généraux ont lieu au scrutin de liste, de telle manière que chaque électeur ne peut inscrire sur son bulletin de vote, à peine de nullité, que les noms de quatre candidats.

Art. 22. Les membres électifs des Conseils Généraux sont élus pour quatre ans et pourront toujours être réélus. Le mandat des membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général a la même durée et peut aussi être indéfiniment renouvelé. Si un siége devient vacant avant l'époque normale, il doit y être pourvu à temps pour que le nouveau membre puisse siéger à la plus prochaine Session.

Art. 23. Le Conseil Général peut être dissout par Décret du Gouverneur-Général délibéré en Conseil Privé.

En cas de dissolution, il sera procédé, dans les deux mois, à de nouvelles élections.

Art. 24. Les Conseils-Généraux tiennent par année deux Sessions ordinaires. La principale de ces Sessions, dans laquelle sont délibérés les budgets des départements, commence de plein droit, le premier Lundi de la seconde quinzaine du mois de Septembre (v. s.). L'ouverture de la seconde Session ordinaire a lieu au jour fixé par le Conseil Général dans la Session du mois de Septembre précédent.

La durée des Sessions ne peut dépasser quinze jours.

Les Conseils Généraux peuvent encore être convoqués en Session extraordinaire par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Aux Sessions extraordinaires les délibérations des Conseils Généraux ne doivent pas dépasser l'objet qui leur a été assigné par l'Ordonnance de convocation.

Art. 25. Les délibérations des Conseils Généraux peuvent être annulées pour motif d'incompétence. L'annulation est prononcée par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme des règlements d'administration publique.

Art. 26. Les Conseils Généraux répartissent, chaque année, à leur Session de Septembre, les contributions directes conformément aux lois. Avant d'effectuer cette répartition ils statuent sur les demandes délibérées par les Conseils Municipaux en réduction de contingent.

Leurs autres attributions sont énumérées dans un règlement organique annexé au présent Chapitre et dont les dispositions pourront être modifiées par une loi provinciale.

Art. 27. Tous vœux politiques sont interdits aux Conseils Généraux; néanmoins, ceux-ci peuvent émettre des vœux sur toutes les questions économiques et d'administration générale.

Art. 28. Les Chefs de service des Administrations publiques dans les départements sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient réclamés par les Conseils Généraux sur les questions intéressant les départements.

Art. 29. Les départements sont représentés en justice par les Présidents de leurs Conseils Généraux, qui sont en même temps Présidents des Commissions Départementales. Ces Présidents font spontanément ou sur l'invitation des Préfets tous les actes conservatoires et interruptifs de prescription ou de déchéance relativement aux droits des départements.

Art. 30. Toute action judiciaire contre un département, comme personne civile, doit être intentée contre le Président de son Conseil Général: copie certifiée de tous les actes de procédure doit être, à peine de nullité, remise au Préfet.

Art. 31. A la Session de Septembre, le Préfet rend compte au Conseil Général par un Rapport détaillé de la situation du département et de l'état des différents services publics. A l'autre Session ordinaire il lui présente un Rapport sur les affaires qui doivent lui être soumises pendant cette Session.

Art. 32. Le projet du budget du département est préparé par le Préfet, qui est tenu de le communiquer à la Commission Départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui, dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Le budget délibéré par le Conseil Général est définitivement réglé par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Si un Conseil Général omet d'inscrire au budget un crédit suffisant pour l'acquittement de dépenses mises à la charge par la loi, telles que celles du casernement de la gendarmerie, de l'entretien des prisons, &c., ou pour l'acquittement de dettes exigibles, ce crédit y est inscrit d'office par le Gouverneur-Général. Aucun autre crédit ne peut être inscrit d'office au budget d'un département.

Art. 33. Le Conseil Général entend et débat les comptes de l'Administration qui lui sont présentés par le Préfet, concernant les recettes et les dépenses du budget départemental. Ces comptes doivent être communiqués à la Commission Départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui, dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Les observations du Conseil Général sur les comptes présentés à son examen sont adressées directement par son Président au Gouverneur-Général. Ces comptes, provisoirement arrêtés par le Conseil Général, le sont définitivement par une Ordonnance rendue en la forme des règlements d'administration publique.

Art. 34. Les budgets et comptes apurés des départements sont publiés par la voie de la presse.

Art. 35. La Commission Départementale se compose de trois membres. Elle est présidée de droit par le Président du Conseil Général. Ses deux autres membres remplissent à tour de rôle les fonctions de Secrétaire.

Les membres de la Commission Départementale ne reçoivent aucune allocation ou indemnité.

En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement d'un des membres, il est remplacé provisoirement par le plus âgé des Conseillers Généraux, qui se trouve au chef-lieu du département. La Commission Départementale est élue pour un an dans la Session du mois de Septembre. Elle se réunit au moins une fois par mois. Les fonctions de membre de la Commission Départementale sont incompatibles avec celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Art. 36. Le Préfet ou son représentant assiste aux séances; il doit être entendu sur sa demande.

Les Chefs des services administratifs dans le département sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient demandés par la Commission Départementale sur les affaires placées dans ses attributions.

Un règlement d'administration publique déterminera le fonctionnement des Commissions Départementales.

Art. 37. La Commission Départementale règle les affaires qui lui sont renvoyées par le Conseil Général dans les limites de la délégation qui lui est faite.

Elle délibère sur toutes les questions qui lui sont déférées par une loi, et elle donne son avis au Préfet sur toutes questions qu'il lui soumet ou sur lesquelles elle croit devoir appeler son attention dans l'intérêt du département.

Art. 38. La Commission Départementale prend connaissance de la comptabilité du département. Le Préfet est tenu de lui adresser chaque mois l'état détaillé des mandats de paiement qu'il a délivrés le mois précédent concernant la comptabilité départementale.

Art. 39. A l'ouverture de chaque Session ordinaire du Conseil Général, la Commission Départementale lui fait un Rapport sur l'ensemble de ses travaux, et lui soumet des propositions. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre elle lui soumet un Rapport sur le budget proposé par le Préfet.

Art. 40. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre, la Commission Départementale présente au Conseil Général le relevé de tous les emprunts communaux et de toutes les contributions extraordinaires communales qui ont été votés depuis la Session de Septembre précédente, avec indication de toutes les dettes et impositions extraordinaires qui grèvent chaque commune.

Art. 41. La Commission Départementale, après avoir entendu l'avis ou les propositions du Préfet: (1) répartit les subventions diverses portées au budget Départemental et dont le Conseil Général ne s'est pas réservé la distribution; (2) détermine l'ordre de priorité des travaux à la charge du département, lorsque cet ordre n'a pas été fixé par le Conseil Général; (3) fixe l'époque et le mode d'adjudication des emprunts départementaux, lorsqu'ils n'ont pas été fixés par le Conseil Général; (4) fixe l'époque de l'adjudication des travaux d'utilité départementale.

Art. 42. La Commission Départementale vérifie l'état des archives et celui du mobilier appartenant au département.

Art. 43. La Commission Départementale peut charger un de ses membres d'une mission relative à des objets compris dans ses attributions.

Art. 44. En cas de désaccord entre la Commission Départementale et le Préfet, l'affaire peut être renvoyée à la plus prochaine Session du Conseil Général, lequel

statuera définitivement. En cas de conflit entre les deux pouvoirs, comme aussi dans le cas où la Commission aurait outrepassé ses attributions, le Conseil Général sera immédiatement convoqué et statuera sur les faits qui lui auront été soumis. Le Conseil Général pourra, s'il le juge convenable, procéder dès lors à la nomination d'une nouvelle Commission Départementale.

Art. 45. Les membres des Conseils Généraux peuvent être désignés par le Préfet pour remplacer provisoirement un Bailli.

Art. 46. Toutes matières d'utilité départementale comprises dans les attributions des Conseils Généraux sont réglées par l'Assemblée Provinciale du moment qu'elles intéressent à la fois deux ou plusieurs départements. L'Assemblée Provinciale statue dans ce cas comme un Conseil Général, de telle sorte que pour avoir force exécutoire sa décision n'a pas besoin d'être sanctionnée par le Gouverneur-Général.

III.—*Du Canton.*

Art. 47. Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'une Administration départementale, un Bailli, nommé par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, et placé sous l'autorité du Préfet, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'Administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit par l'autorité supérieure, soit par le Préfet, dans la limite de sa compétence.

Il prépare l'instruction des affaires administratives qui doivent être soumises à la décision de l'autorité supérieure ou du Préfet.

Il est le Chef de la Police dans le canton.

Il a mission de prendre, au point de vue de la sécurité publique, toutes les mesures d'ordre que les circonstances lui paraissent comporter. Il peut, à cet effet, dans les cas urgents, requérir des officiers commandant la gendarmerie et la milice dans le canton le rassemblement de plusieurs brigades ou détachements, à la charge d'en informer sur le champs le Préfet.

Il exerce les attributions spéciales qui lui sont conférées par les lois et règlements d'administration publique provinciaux.

Art. 48. Il y a dans tout chef-lieu de canton et dans toute ville comptant plus de 4,000 âmes un Commissaire de Police qui est l'auxiliaire du Bailli, pour les affaires concernant la police générale et du Maire pour les affaires concernant la police municipale et rurale.

Art. 49. L'autorité du Commissaire de Police du chef-lieu du canton s'étend à tout le canton. Celle du Commissaire de Police établi dans une autre ville du rayon placé sous sa surveillance par le Bailli.

Art. 50. Les droits et les devoirs des Commissaires de Police ainsi que leurs relations de service avec la gendarmerie, sont réglés par une loi provinciale.

IV.—*Des Communes. De la Commune Urbaine.*

Art. 51. Dans chaque commune urbaine il y a un Maire assisté d'un, de deux, ou de trois Adjoints, et un Conseil Municipal.

Les villes dont la population est inférieure à 2,000 âmes en ont un; celles comptant de 2,000 à 10,000 âmes en ont deux; celles dont la population dépasse 10,000 âmes en ont trois.

Art. 52. Dans les villes chefs-lieux de département ou de canton le Maire et les Adjoints sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général; dans les autres villes ils sont nommés par le Préfet. Ils doivent être choisis parmi les membres du Conseil Municipal. Leurs fonctions sont gratuites. Toutefois il est loisible aux Conseils Municipaux de leur allouer, avec l'assentiment du Préfet, des frais de service et de représentation.

Art. 53. Ne peuvent être Maires ou Adjoints, ni en remplir intérimairement les fonctions administratives à titre de Conseillers municipaux:

(1.) Les Ministres des Cultes;

(2.) Les fonctionnaires publics rétribués et les agents salariés de l'Administration Municipale;

(3.) Les fermiers des revenus communaux;

(4.) Les entrepreneurs de travaux communaux;

(5.) Les militaires en activité de service ou en disponibilité.

Art. 54. Les Conseils Municipaux se composent de onze membres au moins et de vingt-cinq au plus, selon le chiffre de la population des différentes communes.

Ces membres sont élus pour trois ans par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales et qui sont nés dans la commune, ou qui, s'ils sont nés ailleurs, résident obligatoirement dans la commune en qualité soit de fonctionnaire public, soit de ministre d'un culte reconnu ou qui y ont établi leur domicile depuis plus d'un an au moment de leur inscription sur les dites listes électorales, ou enfin qui se sont mariés dans la commune et y résidaient depuis plus d'un an lors de leur inscription.

Art. 55. Les fonctions de Conseiller Municipal sont incompatibles avec celles d'Administrateur-Général de la province, de Préfet, de Bailli, et de Commissaire de Police.

Nul ne peut être Conseiller Municipal de plusieurs communes à la fois.

Art. 56. Pour les élections municipales les électeurs sont distribués en un nombre de sections électorales égal à celui des Conseillers à élire. Toute communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte ainsi qu'une école, a droit à un Conseiller Municipal, et doit par conséquent être formée en section électorale. Si elle comprend un nombre d'électeurs double du quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers Municipaux à élire, elle a droit à deux Conseillers Municipaux et doit être formée en deux sections électorales. Si le nombre des électeurs dont elle dispose contient trois ou un plus grand nombre de fois le chiffre d'électeurs donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal, elle nomme un nombre proportionné de Conseillers Municipaux et doit à cet effet être formée en un nombre proportionné de sections électorales. Il n'est pas tenu compte d'une fraction du quotient donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal.

Les membres de toute communauté religieuse qui ne possède pas dans la commune un édifice pour son culte et une école, sont adjoint individuellement à la section électorale de leur choix.

La répartition des citoyens entre les diverses sections électorales est opérée par les soins de la Commission Municipale chargée de dresser les listes électorales de concert avec les Chefs des communautés religieuses.

Il doit être, autant que possible, tenu compte de la commodité des électeurs, et par conséquent les sections doivent être tracées de manière à coïncider approximativement avec les différents quartiers.

Toute section a une liste électorale distincte et permanente, laquelle doit être révisée annuellement. Cette liste est dressée et révisée par la Commission Municipale déjà citée, de concert avec le Chef de la communauté.

Si pour les opérations dont ils sont chargés en commun, s'élève un différend entre la Commission Municipale et le Chef d'une communauté, celui-là est tranché par le Bailli.

Toute personne qui se prétend indûment omise sur une liste électorale municipale peut réclamer son inscription, ainsi qu'il est dit au règlement concernant les élections provinciales.

Les listes électorales municipales sont conservées, publiées, et affichées comme les listes électorales provinciales.

Les opérations électorales municipales ont lieu d'après les règles qui régissent les opérations pour la nomination des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale. Elles ont lieu le même jour et à la même heure dans toutes les sections électorales de la même commune.

Art. 57. Si la validité de l'élection d'un Conseiller Municipal est contestée par plus de dix électeurs de sa commune, la question est portée devant le Tribunal du Département, qui la tranche d'après les règles imposées à la Cour Supérieure de Justice pour la vérification des pouvoirs des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Art. 58. Le Conseil Municipal a par an quatre Sessions ordinaires, commençant le premier Lundi des mois de Février, de Mai, d'Août, et d'Octobre. Chacune d'elles dure dix jours.

Dans le cas où le Conseil n'a pas terminé des affaires qui ne souffrent point de retard, ou si les intérêts de la commune exigent que le Conseil se réunisse dans l'intervalle d'une Session ordinaire à une autre, le Bailli peut autoriser le Maire, sur la demande de ce dernier à convoquer le Conseil, ou même prescrire spontanément cette mesure. La convocation extraordinaire peut aussi avoir lieu pour un objet spécial et déterminé sur la demande d'un quart des membres du Conseil Municipal adressé directement au Bailli, qui ne peut la refuser que par une décision motivée. Cette décision est notifiée aux réclamants, qui peuvent se pourvoir devant le Préfet.

Toute convocation extraordinaire du Conseil Municipal doit être notifiée à ses membres trois jours à l'avance et à domicile.

Art. 59. Tout Conseiller Municipal qui, sans motif légitime, manque à trois convocations successives, peut, sur la demande de ses collègues, être déclaré démissionnaire par le Bailli. Il est en droit de recourir contre cette décision auprès du Préfet.

Art. 60. En cas de vacance d'un siége au Conseil Municipal, il y est pourvu dans le délai d'un mois.

Art. 61. Le Maire est de droit Président du Conseil Municipal, excepté dans les séances où les comptes de son Administration sont débattus.

A défaut du Maire ou d'un Adjoint qui le remplace, le Conseil est présidé par celui de ses membres présents qui a obtenu le plus de suffrages lors de l'élection.

A la première séance de chaque Session les Conseillers Municipaux nomment entr'eux, au scrutin secret, un Secrétaire dont les fonctions durent jusqu'au terme de la Session.

Les séances du Conseil Municipal ne sont pas publiques.

Art. 62. Le Conseil Municipal ne peut délibérer que si la majorité de ses membres en exercice est présente.

Les résolutions sont prises à la majorité absolue des suffrages exprimés. En cas de partage, la voix du Maire ou de l'Adjoint qui le remplace est prépondérante.

Il est voté au scrutin secret toutes les fois que trois des membres présents le réclament.

Art. 63. Le Maire préside à l'administration de la commune, sous la surveillance du Bailli et du Préfet :

A ce titre il est chargé :

1. De la police et de la voirie municipale et rurale, ainsi que de pourvoir à l'exécution des actes de l'autorité supérieure qui ont trait à ces branches du service public ;

2. De la conservation et de l'administration des propriétés de la commune et de faire, en conséquence, tous actes conservatoires des droits d'icelle ;

3. De la gestion des revenus, de la surveillance des établissements communaux et de la comptabilité communale ;

4. De la proposition du budget et de l'ordonnancement des dépenses ;

5. De la direction des travaux communaux ;

6. De souscrire des marchés, de passer les baux des biens et les adjudications des travaux communaux ;

7. De souscrire les actes de vente, échange, partage, acceptation de dons ou legs, transaction, lorsque ces actes ont été régulièrement autorisés ;

8. De représenter la commune en justice, soit comme demanderesse, soit comme défenderesse ;

9. De surveiller les écoles établies et entretenues aux frais de la commune ;

Le tout en se conformant aux lois, règlements, et Ordonnances provinciaux, aux Arrêtés préfectoraux, et aux délibérations du Conseil Municipal régulièrement prises.

Art. 64. Le Maire nomme et révoque les employés de ses bureaux. Les autres agents municipaux sont élus par le Conseil Municipal et ne peuvent être révoqués par le Maire que sur l'avis conforme du Conseil Municipal.

Art. 65. Le Maire, comme agent de l'autorité supérieure, est chargé :

1. De la publication des lois, des règlements d'administration publique, des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général, des Arrêtés du Préfet, ainsi que de tous actes de l'Administration destinés à être publiés ;

2. De l'exécution des lois et règlements provinciaux, des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général et Arrêtés préfectoraux ;

3. De l'exécution des mesures de sûreté générale ordonnées par l'Administration Centrale de la province par le Préfet ou par le Bailli ;

4. De la publication des rôles d'impôt ;

5. De dresser les Tableaux de recensement des jeunes gens appelés à être enrôlés dans la milice ;

6. Des fonctions spéciales à lui attribuées par les lois et règlements provinciaux.

Art. 66. Le Maire peut déléguer à un ou plusieurs de ses Adjoints une partie de ses fonctions, et, en l'absence de tous Adjoints, à ceux des Conseillers Municipaux appelés à en faire les fonctions.

En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement du Maire, son autorité passe, de plein droit, à l'un des Adjoints suivant l'ordre des nominations. Si les Adjoints sont absents ou empêchés en même temps que le Maire, ce fonctionnaire est remplacé par le Conseiller Municipal inscrit le premier sur le Tableau, qui doit être dressé d'après le nombre de suffrages obtenus et suivant l'ordre des scrutins.

Art. 67. Dans le cas où le Maire refuse ou néglige de faire un des actes qui lui sont prescrits par la loi, le Préfet, après l'en avoir requis, peut y procéder d'office par lui-même ou par un délégué spécial.

Art. 68. Le Maire procède par Arrêtés réglementaires ou individuels. Les premiers doivent être communiqués au Bailli, qui en accuse réception au Maire; ils ne sont d'ailleurs obligatoires qu'autant qu'ils ont été publiés. Les seconds n'ont pas besoin d'être publiés et deviennent obligatoire dès qu'ils ont été notifiés aux parties intéressées.

Les Arrêtés obligatoires permanents ne sont exécutoires qu'un mois après la date du récépissé délivré par le Bailli. Passé ce mois, ils ne peuvent plus être annulés par l'autorité supérieure. Les arrêtés réglementaires temporaires sont exécutoires immédiatement. Mais l'autorité supérieure conserve toujours la faculté de les annuler sous la réserve des droits des tiers.

Art. 69. Le Conseil Municipal règle le mode de jouissance, d'administration, et d'exploitation des biens de la commune ainsi que la gestion de ses revenus, sauf la nécessité de l'approbation du Préfet dans les cas déterminés par les lois provinciales.

Il vote les aliénations, acquisitions, partages de biens de toute espèce à faire par ou pour le compte de la commune.

Il vote les taxes et contributions municipales dans les limites déterminées par les lois provinciales. Il vote aussi les emprunts municipaux.

Il règle le tarif des droits de place à percevoir dans les halles, foires, et marchés, ainsi que les droits à percevoir pour permis de stationnement et de location sur les rues, places, et autres lieux dépendant du domaine public municipal.

Il arrête le budget municipal dans lequel figurent obligatoirement les dépenses déterminées par les lois provinciales.

Il vérifie et arrête les comptes de l'Administration Municipale.

Il décide, sauf approbation par l'autorité supérieure, la création ou l'extension de tout établissement d'utilité publique communale (écoles, gymnases, lavoirs, &c.) au moyen de ressources pécuniaires assurées, soit par des fonds disponibles, soit par l'augmentation des revenus municipaux.

Il décide des projets, plans et devis de grosses réparations des immeubles appartenant à la commune.

Il délibère:

Sur le percement et l'alignement des rues et places, et sur leur pavage et éclairage, sur la création et l'entretien de boulevards et de jardins publics, sur les conduites d'eau, égouts, fossés, digues et ponts appartenant à la ville, et généralement sur tout ce qui concerne la voirie municipale;

Sur les actions judiciaires dans lesquelles la commune est engagée;

Sur les transactions et sur tous les contrats ou marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de la commune.

Art. 70. Les délibérations du Conseil Municipal sont inscrites par ordre de date sur un registre *ad hoc*, coté et paraîé par le Bailli. Tous les membres signent sur la minute et, si quelques-uns sont empêchés, mention est faite des causes pour lesquelles ils n'ont pas signé.

Les membres qui ne sont pas de l'avis de la majorité qui a voté la délibération peuvent faire mentionner à la suite de celle-ci leur vote séparé.

Copie de chaque délibération est adressée dans la huitaine au Bailli, qui la transmet dans une autre huitaine au Préfet.

Art. 71. L'année budgétaire communale coïncide avec celle de la province.

Art. 72. Le budget communal est proposé par le Maire au Conseil Municipal au moment de la Session ordinaire de Février.

Si le budget ne prévoit pas une ou plusieurs dépenses obligatoires pour la commune, le Préfet les y inscrit d'office. En cas d'insuffisance des ressources ordinaires de la commune pour couvrir les dites dépenses, ce fonctionnaire doit pourvoir à icelles en proposant au Gouverneur-Général d'imposer à la commune une contribution extraordinaire. Le Gouverneur-Général, après avoir consulté son Conseil Privé, établit cette contribution par une Ordonnance rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Les décisions du Conseil Municipal concernant des dépenses facultatives sont irréformables.

Art. 73. Si le Conseil Municipal vote une taxe en violation d'une loi provinciale ou d'une délibération du Conseil Général, le Préfet annule cette délibération du Conseil Municipal; il annule de même l'Article du budget des recettes où figure le produit d'une telle taxe.

Si le Conseil Municipal estime que dans son Arrêté le Préfet a mal interprété la

loi ou la délibération du Conseil Général, visée par lui, il se pourvoit devant le Gouverneur-Général, qui tranche le différend après avoir consulté son Conseil Privé, ainsi que la Commission Permanente de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Art. 74. Les comptes d'Administration du Maire sont débattus par le Conseil Municipal et approuvés par le Préfet.

Les comptes de deniers du receveur municipal sont soumis au Contrôleur-Général des Finances.

Art. 75. Le Maire peut, pour le compte d'une année budgétaire, ordonnancer les paiements jusqu'au 15 Mai de l'année suivante; les paiements peuvent être faits jusqu'au 31 Mai, époque de la clôture de l'exercice.

Art. 76. Les Conseils Municipaux élisent les Commissions chargées de répartir entre les citoyens, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de répartition ainsi que les taxes départementales et municipales.

Art. 77. Les Conseils Municipaux donnent à l'Administration des avis relativement à toutes les questions sur lesquelles ils sont consultés. Ils expriment des vœux sur toutes les affaires d'intérêt local.

Art. 78. Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être suspendus par Arrêté Préfectoral pour une durée de deux mois. Dans ce cas leurs fonctions sont remplies par une Commission Municipale de cinq à dix membres suivant l'importance de la commune.

Ces membres sont nommés par le Préfet et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général.

Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être dissous par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans ce cas c'est à ce dignitaire qu'il appartient de nommer lui-même la Commission Municipale. L'Ordonnance de dissolution indique l'époque à laquelle il doit être procédé à de nouvelles élections; cette époque ne peut pas être reculée de plus d'un an.

De la Commune Rurale.

Art. 79. Dans chaque commune rurale dont les habitants appartiennent tous à la même communauté religieuse, il y a un Chef assisté d'un Mouktar, lesquels sont chargés de la police municipale. Ces Magistrats ont pour mission de sauvegarder les intérêts collectifs de la commune ainsi que de faire connaître au Bailli et, si besoin est, au Préfet, les vœux et les réclamations des habitants.

Ils sont, au même titre que les Maires et Adjoints des communes, les agents de l'autorité, et doivent se conformer aux instructions du Bailli, sauf recours au Préfet.

Art. 80. Dans les communes rurales dont les habitants appartiennent à deux ou plusieurs communautés, il y a autant de Chefs et de Mouktars que de communautés.

Chacune de celles-ci élit à part son Chef et son Mouktar.

Art. 81. Les Chefs ainsi que les Mouktars sont élus pour un an par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

Sont seuls éligibles comme Chefs et comme Mouktars ceux des dits électeurs qui sont âgés de 30 ans au moins et ne se trouvent dans aucun des cas d'incapacité énumérés à l'Article 54.

Les Chefs et les Mouktars sortants sont toujours rééligibles, sauf les cas prévus à l'Article suivant.

L'élection des Chefs et des Mouktars se fait le . . . . . Elle est immédiatement portée à la connaissance du Bailli.

Art. 82. Les Chefs et les Mouktars sont destinés par le Préfet pour indignité s'il viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent être destitués en cas de manquement à leurs devoirs comme mandataires de l'autorité supérieure, ou sur la plainte d'une des communautés religieuses de leur commune. Leurs destitution doit dans ces deux derniers cas être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Bailli.

L'Arrêté de destitution convoquera dans les dix jours les électeurs de la commune à l'effet de procéder au choix d'un nouveau Chef ou d'un nouveau Mouktar. Le Chef ou le Mouktar destitué pour cause d'indignité ne pourra pas être réélu, à moins qu'à l'expiration de sa peine, ou à la cessation de sa peine s'il est gracié, il n'obtienne du Gouverneur-Général des lettres de relief. Si le Chef ou le Mouktar a été destitué pour manquement à ses devoirs comme mandataire de l'autorité supérieure, il peut être réélu après cinq ans avec l'assentiment du Bailli. S'il a été destitué sur la plainte du Conseil ou d'un des Conseils des Anciens de sa commune, il peut être réélu de plein droit.

Art. 83. Pour chaque communauté religieuse existant dans la commune rurale, il y a un Conseil des Anciens, dont les membres sont au nombre de quatre au moins et de douze au plus, suivant l'importance de la commune.

Les Imams et les Chefs religieux des communautés non-Musulmanes sont de droit membres des Conseils de leurs communautés respectives.

Les autres membres, qui doivent être âgés de 30 ans au moins sont élus pour un an par les membres de leurs communautés respectives inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

Ils sont indéfiniment rééligibles.

Art. 84. S'il y a lieu de pourvoir au remplacement d'un Chef, d'un Moukhtar, ou d'un membre du Conseil des Anciens avant l'expiration de l'année pour laquelle il avait été élu, les électeurs se réunissent en Assemblée extraordinaire pour procéder à une nouvelle élection, qui n'a d'effet que jusqu'à la fin de la dite année.

Art. 85. Les Conseils des Anciens délibèrent :—

(1.) Sur les questions relatives à la construction et à l'entretien des édifices, fontaines, puits, citernes, lavoirs, conduites d'eau, égouts, fosses, cimetières, écoles, établissements de charité, &c., appartenant aux communautés religieuses qu'ils représentent.

(2.) Sur les questions relatives à la voirie, à la salubrité publique et aux intérêts de l'agriculture.

(3.) Sur les aliénations, acquisitions, et partages des biens, ainsi que sur les contrats et marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de leurs communautés respectives.

Ils votent, dans les limites des lois et règlements, et répartissent, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les taxes et contributions à établir dans l'intérêt de leurs communautés.

Art. 86. Les matières (édilité, voirie, agriculture, &c.) énumérées à l'Article précédent, qui touchent aux intérêts collectifs, d'une commune rurale mixte, sont discutés et réglés par les Conseils des Anciens, réunis sous la présidence du plus ancien des Chefs.

Art. 87. Le Conseil unique des Anciens ou les Conseils réunis règlent le mode de jouissance des bois, pâturages, et autres biens appartenant à la commune rurale.

Ils nomment et révoquent ses gardes champêtres et forestiers.

Ils répartissent, sous le contrôle des Agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de répartition de la province, ainsi que les taxes départementales et communales.

Ils votent le budget de la commune, lequel, pour la régularité des écritures, doit être dressé par un employé, à ce délégué, de l'Administration des Finances.

Art. 88. Toute délibération tendant à grever une commune rurale ou une de ses communautés d'une charge à laquelle il ne pourrait être fait face qu'au moyen de centimes additionnels aux impôts et taxes payés à la province ou au département, ou au moyen d'une taxe locale spéciale, à besoin d'être approuvée par le Bailli.

La même règle s'applique aux délibérations ayant pour objet des aliénations, acquisitions, ou partages de biens pour le compte d'une commune ou d'une communauté.

Art. 89. Les contestations entre communautés d'une même commune sont résolues à l'amiable par les soins d'un Conseil mixte composé de six ou douze Anciens, élus *ad hoc* par les communautés contestantes.

Les membres de ce Conseil de paix sont pris à nombre égal dans les communautés respectives.

Ils siégent sous la présidence du plus âgé des Chefs.

En cas d'insuccès d'une pareille tentative de conciliation, le différend est porté, s'il s'agit d'une question de propriété, devant la justice civile, s'il s'agit d'une question de contentieux administratif, devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

La même procédure s'applique aux contestations entre deux ou plusieurs communes, avec cette différence, que le Conseil de Paix est dans ce cas présidé par le Bailli ou par un délégué de ce fonctionnaire.

No. 272.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch, dated yesterday, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, announcing the appointment of Colonel Vitalis to be

Commandant of the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia and Colonel Mahir Bey (Colonel Borthwick) to be Sub-Commandant.

In accordance with his Excellency's request I have informed Colonel Borthwick of the appointment in a letter which I have sent under flying seal to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Carathéodory Pasha to Mr. Malet.

M. le Ministre, *Sublime Porte, le 23 Février*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'en conformité de l'Article XV du Traité de Berlin, et prenant en considération les conditions spéciales dans lesquelles se trouve la province de la Roumélie Orientale, ainsi que l'urgence qu'il y a à procéder à la formation d'une gendarmerie efficace, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de nommer le Commandant Vitalis, Commandant, et le Colonel Mahir Bey, Sous-Commandant, de la gendarmerie, qui doit être formée dans cette province.

Ces nominations ont été déjà portées à la connaissance des Commissaires Ottomans à Philippopoli, ainsi que du Ministère de la Police.

Comme il importe toutefois qu'en présence de l'état de choses actuel dans la Roumélie Orientale ces officiers se rendent le plus tôt possible à Philippopoli, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien informer Mahir Bey qu'il ont à se mettre immédiatement à la disposition du Gouvernement Impérial pour le service important qui doit lui être confié.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 273.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Calvert, No. 12 of the 21st instant, relating to the recent disturbances at Adrianople, and I beg to call your Lordship's attention to a remark of General Skobeleff's in his reply to the Consular deputation which waited upon him and General Molostwoff, Governor of the town, to confer upon the disquiet prevailing in the town.

General Skobeleff is reported to have said: "Nous avons conseillé aux Bulgares de rester tranquilles, car ils ont obtenu une indépendance absolue, et une Roumanie Orientale, qui, tôt ou tard, sera unie avec la Bulgarie comme l'Italie à fait son union."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, February 21, 1879.*

DISQUIET continued to prevail in the public mind here yesterday owing to the following causes:—

As I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my cyphered telegram of last night, the persons accused of having taken part in the late brutal assault on the Greek Archbishop have been set at liberty. The President of the Court-martial has declared to my French colleague that this measure was taken in consequence of the acquittal of the accused persons by the Court after proper inquiry. It is at the same time given out that the authorities have their eye on the really guilty parties, and that they have even arrested some of them; but what foundation there may be for the statement it is

impossible to say. In any case, the time chosen for the release of the arrested persons and the manner of it were not happy. On the dispersion of the main body of the crowd, which assembled before the Government konak on the 19th instant, the relatives of the men in custody, chiefly females, remained behind, and set up a clamour on behalf of the prisoners. It was upon this that the accused men were let out of the public gaol, which adjoins the konak, and then and there made over to their friends. The authorities have thus virtually encouraged the belief that they are ready to yield to the turbulent demands of the Bulgarian mob.

Other parties of Bulgarians at the same time sought out two native Greeks, named Panayotti Djiridoglu and Bakkal-Bashi, known to be leading partizans of Turkish rule, with the evident intention of maltreating them. Both fortunately succeeded in eluding their persecutors, and got away by the first train for Constantinople. In this instance, as in that of the Greek Archbishop the day before, the most obvious preventive measures were neglected by the Russian authorities.

These circumstances could not fail to give weight to the apprehensions caused by the threats of the Bulgarian mob that they would return at the end of the term indicated by General Molostvoff, with an accession of numbers from the neighbouring villages, ten thousand strong, and with arms in their hands.

The Consular body deemed it advisable, therefore, to hold a meeting with the view of representing to the authorities the uneasy state of public feeling, and to obtain assurances from them, more especially with regard to the safety of the foreign communities placed under our protection. The two senior Consuls, those of Austria-Hungary and of Greece, who also have the largest number of persons to protect, were deputed to wait on the Governor to-day. The result of their interview with General Molostvoff and with General Skobeleff, who has just been appointed Military Commandant of Adrianople, will be found in the inclosed copy of a statement which Messrs. Sax and Gennadis have drawn up and communicated to me and their other colleagues.

The assurances given by both Generals are, as your Excellency will observe, in themselves very satisfactory, and the measures recapitulated by them, if faithfully carried out, can hardly fail to secure the desired object.

Although the demands put forth by the Bulgarian notables, and for which General Skobeleff has bespoken the support of the Consular body, are reasonable enough, I would not, had I been present at the interview, have let the first and second of them to pass without remark. Whilst it is doubtless desirable to avoid, if possible, the quartering of homeless Turkish families upon Christian houses, it is difficult to understand upon what principle of equity the Bulgarians or their Russian protectors can call upon Raouf Pasha to give an undertaking to that effect, seeing that the former have been allowed not only to instal themselves at will and on the largest scale in Turkish homes, but to expel the owners from house and lands. Again, as regards the composition and discipline of the Turkish gendarmerie, one might almost suppose General Skobeleff's advice to have been given in a spirit of irony, for competent and impartial Russian officers have spontaneously declared to me that the Russo-Bulgarian police are the greatest "canaille" in the country. They are notoriously recruited from the very dregs of the Bulgarian populace, and their misdeeds during the Russian occupation have far surpassed, in degree and frequency, not only those which the Turkish zaptiehs were really accustomed to commit in ordinary times, but those which have been imputed to them by exaggerated report. I shall take the first opportunity of expressing myself to General Skobeleff in this sense.

The third demand, however, that for the retention of Raouf Pasha in the Governorship of this province, is in all respects a just and excellent one, and whilst it bears most honourable testimony to the character of the newly-appointed Vali, gives good promise of Bulgarian contentment with the re-establishment, under proper conditions, of Turkish rule in this part of the country.

In conclusion, I am happy to be able to report that the public mind is now considerably more tranquil than it has been for the last few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 273.

Report of Interview of Consuls with General Skobeleff.

A LA suite de la décision prise dans la séance Consulaire d'hier, nous Soussignés, nous nous sommes rendus aujourd'hui chez le Gouverneur, le Général Molostooff, pour parler avec lui sur la situation inquiétante de la ville.

Le Gouverneur se référa aux assurances qu'il avait déjà données dans la soirée d'hier au soussigné Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, et nous proposa de parler avec le Général Skobeleff, qui a été hier nommé Commandant de ce district et qui se trouvait en ce moment dans la chambre voisine.

Il appela donc le Général Skobeleff, qui nous reçut très-bien et nous demanda le but de notre démarche. Nous lui exposâmes que nous sommes venus comme représentants du Corps Consulaire dans une mission plutôt confidentielle qu'officielle, parce que les désordres qui avaient dernièrement commencé ici et les bruits inquiétants répandus dans la ville concernant l'arrivée de milliers de villageois armés et de menaces proférés contre quelques individus ont causé des craintes chez beaucoup de personnes qui se préparent même de renvoyer leurs familles comme ils l'avaient fait l'année passé; que nous espérons que ces bruits sont exagérés, mais que dans l'intérêt de nos nationaux nous avons cru opportun de parler avec son Excellence le Gouverneur pour recevoir de lui-même les assurances désirées.

Sur quoi M. le Général Skobeleff répondit :—

"On m'a confié le commandement militaire dans la ville jusqu'à l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes. Vous pouvez être tranquilles. Je vous garantie qu'il n'y aura plus de désordres ici. Nous avons placé plusieurs escadrons de cavalerie autour de la ville avec l'ordre d'empêcher l'entrée des bandes de villageois, et même d'employer la force en cas de besoin.

"Nous avons conseillé aux Bulgares de rester tranquilles, car ils ont obtenu une Principauté avec une indépendance absolue et une Roumélie Orientale, qui tôt ou tard sera unie avec la Bulgarie, comme l'Italie a fait son union. Ce n'est pas avec des massacres et méfaits qu'ils pourront gagner les sympathies de l'Europe, mais avec la patience et une bonne conduite ils pourront atteindre leur but. Il est absurde en tout cas de discuter pour Andrinople, car même le Traité de San Stéfano, qui a pris comme base la majorité et la minorité des nations, a exclu le Sandjak d'Andrinople. Tout cela nous l'avons dit aux Primats Bulgares qui, du reste, nous ont soumis quelques demandes concernant la sécurité publique; demandes que je trouve très-raisonnables, et que je vous prie même de recommander aussi de votre part à Réouf Pacha.

"Ces demandes sont, premièrement, que les familles Turques ne soient pas logées par le Gouvernement dans les maisons Chrétiennes, sous le prétexte que leurs propres maisons ont été brûlées. Comme cela pourrait certainement causer des désordres je mets à la disposition de Réouf Pacha les barraques qui ont été construites pour nos soldats autour de la ville et qui peuvent contenir 15,000 personnes environ.

Secondement, que la gendarmerie Turque, qui ordinairement n'est pas payée, ne soit pas composée de vagabonds, et qu'elle soit mieux organisée, chose qui pour Baker Pacha ne sera pas très-difficile.

"Troisièmement, qu'ils désirent que Réouf Pacha ne soit pas prochainement changé comme Gouverneur, parce qu'ils ont une grande confiance en lui (tandis que la Turquie change ses Gouverneurs ordinairement comme on change les gants)."

Nous avons reconnu la justesse de ces demandes en promettant de les appuyer chez Réouf Pacha, en tant qu'elles ne concernent pas la politique mais seulement la sécurité publique. Quant à la demande des Bulgares d'émigrer d'ici, le Général déclara que personne ne le empêchera, mais qu'on ne lui facilitera d'aucune manière leur émigration; qu'on ne leur procurera pas des billets pour le chemin de fer, qu'on ne retardera pas la retraite des troupes à cause des émigrants, et qu'on ne leur assignera pas des terrains dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Sur notre observation qu'il serait préférable de mettre des soldats Turcs aussi dans les barraques au lieu de les faire loger dans les maisons habitées, le Général Skobeleff reconnaissant la gravité de cette question a répondu qu'avec l'autorisation du Général-en-chef il sera prêt de recommander cette affaire à Réouf Pacha.

Quant à notre désir qu'il n'y ait pas un intervalle entre le départ des troupes Russes et l'entrée des troupes Ottomanes, le Général Skobeleff déclara qu'il s'y est déjà entendu avec Réouf Pacha, et qu'il lui a dit de faire venir une division de cavalerie Turque avant son départ encore. Toutes les sentinelles (par exemple, aussi celle de la Banque Ottomane), seraient échangées encore pendant sa propre

présence dans la ville, qu'il prolongera encore pour quelques jours après l'arrivée des Turcs.

Le départ des troupes Russes sera effectué le $\frac{28\ \text{Février}}{12\ \text{Mars}}$. On prendra aussi la précaution de désigner un bataillon exprès pour le service dans le cas d'un incendie.

Enfin, tous les deux Généraux nous répétèrent qu'il n'y a rien à craindre pour la sécurité publique, et le Général Molostooff nous avertit que dorénavant on tirera chaque soir un coup de canon pour annoncer aux soldats la retraite, ce qui ne doit effrayer personne.

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
GENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*

No. 274.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1879.

I SAW the Grand Vizier for the first time to-day after assuming direction of the Embassy. His Highness, after mentioning the decision of the Council to recall Kiamil Pasha, Governor-General of Aleppo, passed to the question of finance, which, he said, was one of life or death to the Ottoman Empire. He had concluded the Convention with M. de Tocqueville as an earnest of the desire of the Porte to come to an arrangement with her creditors even at the most serious sacrifices to herself. He was grateful to observe the criticism that the scheme was impracticable, because it did not leave enough revenue to carry on the Imperial Administration, for this must be recognized as a proof of the completeness of the intention of the Porte to regain her credit at whatever cost. When he was negotiating with M. de Tocqueville, his Highness was told that this gentleman represented only a fraction of the bondholders. The statement did not restrain him, as his first object was, somehow or another, to convince Europe of the good intentions of the Porte.

Had he communicated the negotiation to the Ambassadors, delays of reference must have ensued which would, without doubt, have rendered the project abortive; but he had been determined to get the Convention signed, sealed, and published, to prove that the Porte was in earnest in her desire to come to an arrangement.

He addressed himself to me, to beg that Her Majesty's Government would not delay in appointing the Administrators, whom he had asked for through Musurus Pasha. He was aware that M. de Tocqueville would probably not be able to raise the loan, which was the condition of the validity of the Convention, but the Convention contained the principle of foreign Administrators. These might exist though the Convention itself perished. He was prepared to hand over to them, in the latter case, the entire administration of the Customs, and he believed that on such a security he could at least raise a loan which would enable him to withdraw the paper currency. When they arrived at Constantinople he would ask them to devise a well-considered scheme for the eventual satisfaction of all the debts of the Empire, not excepting the Russian indemnity—a sword of Damocles, which he desired to fasten securely, as it was a greater danger than the ill-will created by the Ottoman bankruptcy. "But," he said, "I have obtained this permission for the admission of foreign Administrators with difficulty. It will cease if it is not seized while the De Tocqueville Convention is still under discussion, and I may not be able to get it renewed; I therefore beg you to urge Her Majesty's Government strenuously to name them, and I trust that, in time, it may be the means of the whole administration of Customs and indirect taxation passing into their hands. When success is seen in one branch it will pass on to another; the fruit will become palatable in eating, the system may be further extended, and an era of prosperity may at last dawn upon us."

I observed to his Highness that Her Majesty's Government might hesitate to name Commissioners under the De Tocqueville Convention, which had great defects, and met with serious and well-founded opposition.

His Highness replied by repeating his assertion that the Convention was only a sign of a desire for an arrangement; that he did not hold to it so much as to the principle which it involved; that the financial administration of a large part of the Imperial revenues should pass into competent hands. If this was carried out, a great part of the battle would be won.

I remarked that M. de Tocqueville had immense advantages in the Convention as it stood, and that he might yet succeed in obtaining the loan within the delay

appointed, and that it would not do for Her Majesty's Government to have named Commissioners, who would then have to act under a Convention which had not rallied the majority of English bondholders.

His Highness said he did not believe it was possible for M. de Tocqueville to raise the loan, and he proceeded to enlarge upon the anarchy and misery caused by the paper currency. Turkey must succumb if no remedy could be found to its increasing depreciation. The Treasury was in such a state that he had been told to-day that he could not have uniforms for the 500 gendarmerie which he proposed to send to Eastern Roumelia, as there was no money to pay for them; and he again urged that the nomination of Commissioners could yet save the country, as the elements of revenue existed, if they could be reduced by persons of knowledge to obedience. But if the opportunity was allowed to pass, he feared that it might not present itself again.

I venture to suggest, if the request of the Grand Vizier be entertained, that one of the Commissioners should be a specialist acquainted with the technical details of administration, but that the other should be a statesman, with a knowledge of the world, versed in languages, and having the power of conciliation, for he may have a great part to play, and may acquire by such qualities the financial, and therefore to a great extent the political, control of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 275.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Report which has been communicated to me by the Porte on the subject of a journey made by an Ottoman official, named Abdullah Agha, into Russian Trans-Caucasia. The Agha went to Erivan, and returned to Bayazid. He gives an account of the disposition of Russian troops in the parts which he traversed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 275.

Extrait d'une Dépêche Confidentielle adressée au Vali d'Erzéroum pour le Gouverneur Intérimaire de Bayazid, en date du 31 *Décembre*, 1878, *relative aux Préparatifs Militaires que poursuivent actuellement les Russes en Asie.*

PAR ma dépêche responsive, en date du 13 Décembre, j'avais eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence de la manière dont Abdullah Agha, fonctionnaire du Conseil du Contentieux du district de Cara Killissé, avait effectué son voyage à Kévan, et que je me serais empressé de transmettre à votre Excellence en détail les informations qu'aurait fournies ce fonctionnaire à son retour.

Ce fonctionnaire s'est avancé jusqu'au canton d'Ekdir, mais n'étant pas muni de passe-port, on lui a refusé quelques jours dans la dite localité; on l'a fait revenir sur ses pas par la voie de Surmeli Natchanliki, et il est arrivé hier à Bayazid.

Des renseignements fournis par Abdullah Agha, il résulte que les troupes que les Russes ont expédiées jusqu'ici à Nahi Tchevan ont été massées dans la localité connue sous le nom de Chah-Joulti, située à proximité des frontières Persanes et sur la Mer Caspienne.

On calcule que le nombre approximatif de ces troupes s'élève à 30,000 hommes.

En outre, une grande quantité de munitions de guerre et de provisions de bouche sont accumulées et emmagasinées dans le village de Kamerli, situé entre Eutch-Kilissé. Tandis que l'on augmente sans cesse ces provisions, on fait des contrats pour la fourniture du combustible nécessaire au corps d'Armée Russe dit "Sarine." Tout en accumulant du bois de chauffage on inscrit des cavaliers. Les salaires de ces cavaliers ont été déjà fixés. Ces cavaliers devront se tenir prêts dans leurs habitations pour pouvoir être attachés à l'armée aussitôt qu'on les demandera. Ils auront droit de

toucher leurs appointements à partir du jour où ils joindront l'armée. C'est un Général qui a été chargé d'organiser ce service. Beaucoup de voitures ont été réquisitionnées des habitants; celles que l'on emploiera de Kamar à Batoum recevront chacune 70 menats par mois. Celles qui seront employées du côté de Kévan et en deçà recevront 60 menats. On a préparé les quartiers d'hiver de trois bataillons d'infanterie à Ekdir même, et ceux des Cosaques qui se trouvent éparpillés dans les villages de Djessan, de Herdjaheh Haleali, Koulep Perhakuimé, et Aghanik, ainsi que dans ceux situés au pied de la montagne. Le total des forces qui se trouvent actuellement à Kévan s'élève à 15,000 d'infanterie et à 5,000 hommes de cavalerie. L'artillerie se compose de 24 bouches à feu.

Abdullah Agha ajoute qu'il a appris à Ekdir que l'on avait expédié dans l'Afghanistan un Commandant, le nombre d'officiers nécessaire, et un peu d'armes et de munitions de guerre. Je ne cesse de prendre les informations voulues pour découvrir le but politique et moral actuellement poursuivi par les Russes, et je me ferai un devoir empressé de communiquer successivement à votre Excellence tous les renseignements que je pourrai recueillir à ce sujet.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire parvenir aussitôt que possible un ou deux passe-ports, à fin de les remettre à Abdullah Agha, qui pourrait ainsi se rendre à Kévan, et, si c'est possible, même jusqu'à Nahjevan, pour compléter ses renseignements sans fournir aux fonctionnaires Russes l'occasion de lui faire rebrousser chemin faute de passe-port.

No. 276.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 179.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 25, 1879.

ON receiving, on Saturday last, Mr. Consul Henderson's telegram of the 21st instant on the conduct of the Vali of Aleppo, I spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs very seriously on the matter, reminding his Excellency of Sir Henry Layard's request that the Vali might be dismissed. I informed his Excellency of the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had heard that Commissions were to be appointed to examine into the various abuses which are reported from Armenia and other parts of Asia Minor, and I exhorted him to prove the sincerity of the Porte in its desire to redress the grievances by the dismissal of Kiamil Pasha, whose official reports proved that he was wilfully misleading his Government as to what was taking place in his province, which I had no hesitation in asserting, as I had read the reports and had a knowledge of the facts gathered during my recent stay at Aleppo. In the morning I sent his Excellency a copy of Mr. Henderson's despatch.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me on Monday that he had laid the matter before the Council on the previous day, and that a fresh Report from Kiamil Pasha had been read to the Council, in which the Pasha asserted that instead of being censured he was entitled to the thanks of the Imperial Government for the vigorous and necessary measures which he had executed to suppress revolt and restore order. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had thereupon produced Mr. Henderson's despatch, and after considerable discussion the recall of the Governor-General had been decided, and his Excellency stated that it was agreed to in order to mark the attention with which the Council listened to representations made in the name of Her Majesty's Government, and which they knew would not be put forward lightly or without sufficient evidence.

His Excellency went on to say that it was proposed to replace Kiamil Pasha by Zia Pasha, at present Vali of Adana. I, however, felt unfortunately bound to demur to this appointment. Zia Pasha governed a province which I had also visited, and I regretted to say he was not a fit person for such a position. I had direct evidence of his corruption, and I had as soon that Kiamil Pasha should remain as that Zia Pasha should be appointed in his stead. After some further discussion, I suggested that either Youssouf Pasha or Server Pasha should be selected; both were men of tried capacity, and the former had already been selected as Commissioner to inquire into Armenian affairs.

His Excellency begged me to speak on the subject to the Grand Vizier, which I did immediately afterwards, and his Highness, I trust, was induced to give up the idea of sending Zia Pasha. He said he would submit the names of Youssouf Pasha and Server Pasha to the Council.

On returning, I received your Lordship's telegram of the 24th, instructing me to insist upon redress for the proceedings of Kiamil Pasha, and it was a satisfaction to me to be able to reply that his dismissal had been decided upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 277.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 180.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 26, 1879.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph on the 23rd instant that Count Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, had addressed a note to the Sublime Porte, calling on it to name a Financial Commission, according to the terms of the 18th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, for the purpose of examining into the complaints of the bondholders of the Ottoman Debt, and to propose efficacious means for satisfying them.

The Porte has replied to Count Corti by stating that the engagement in question was conditional upon the Ottoman Government making no arrangement with a view to the satisfaction of the creditors, but that as they have recently concluded a Convention for this special purpose, the object of the declaration in the Protocol is fulfilled, and the necessity for its execution ceases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 278.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 181.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 27, 1879.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 194 of the 11th February, I have the honour to explain that the confusion with regard to the statement that representations to the Porte concerning troubles in Albistan had been made on the authority of Mr. Consul Henderson appears to have arisen from an error in Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 1560 to your Lordship.

The statements regarding the troubles in Albistan were made by the Protestant Vekil, and not by Mr. Henderson, as stated in that despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 279.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 182. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 26, 1879.

CARATHEODORY PASHA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited me this morning, and said that he had come to request the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in the question of the negotiation of the Convention with the Government of Austro-Hungaria relative to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of certain points in the district of Novi-Bazar.

The negotiation which had been carried on by his Excellency unsuccessfully at Vienna after the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin had been resumed at Constantinople. The Porte had hoped to take them up where they had broken off, but new difficulties had been raised which, he feared, would bring them again to a termination unless England intervened and prevailed by moderate counsels to induce Austria to accede to points on which the Ottoman Government felt it their duty to insist.

The Convention was to be preceded by an introduction ("préambule"), in which the Porte proposed to preserve the rights of the Sultan and to establish the temporary nature of the occupation.

In renewing the negotiation the Government had submitted four points:—

1. The recognition of the sovereignty of the Sultan.

2. The insertion of the word "temporary" in defining the occupation.

3. That Bosnians and Herzegovinians should be recognized as Ottoman subjects when out of their provinces.

4. That previous to the entry of Austro-Hungarian troops into Novi-Bazar the places to be occupied and the strength of the garrisons should be fixed.

When the negotiations had terminated at Vienna, it had been nearly settled that the phrase regarding the sovereignty of the Sultan should stand as follows:—

"Le fait de l'occupation de la Bosnie et de la Herzégovine ne portant aucune atteinte aux droits souverains de Sa Majesté Impériale sur les deux provinces," &c.

On resuming the negotiations, however, here, Count Zichy, the Austrian Ambassador, proposed to substitute the following words for those which precede:—

"Le fait de l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine ne préjugeant pas en principe les droits de Sa Majesté Impériale," &c.

Carathéodory Pasha stated that his Government could not accept this wording, as it indicated that the sovereignty was an open question.

With regard to the second point, Count Zichy had said that the insertion of the word "temporary" was inadmissible, and that he was not even allowed by his instructions to discuss it.

His Excellency had, however, informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that if the Porte would insist no further on the word, he, on his side, was ready to endeavour to induce his Government to accept the wording proposed by the Porte with regard to the sovereignty.

The other points had not been discussed, but with regard to the 4th, the Ambassador in conversation had said he could not consent to a precise designation of the points to be occupied, and the numerical force of the garrisons; that it must suffice to say in the Convention that an ulterior arrangement must be come to on the subject by the two Governments.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in order to avoid breaking off the negotiations, had proposed that the introduction should be discussed afterwards, and that in the meantime the Articles of the Convention, which are merely of a formal nature, should be negotiated.

His Excellency went on to say that he did not conceal from me that there was hardly any chance of the Convention being concluded if Austro-Hungaria adhered to her refusal to record in it the temporary nature of the occupation, and he came to me to request me to telegraph to your Lordship to use your good offices in inducing the Austro-Hungarian Government to give way. He said that the first two points were indispensable, and that the Porte attached the greatest importance to the fourth.

He sketched to me the negotiations with regard to the cession of the two provinces from the commencement, with which your Lordship is sufficiently acquainted. He urged that the principle of the occupation, being temporary, had never been called in question even up to the present moment; that the Porte did not seek to assign any limit to the occupation, but that it did insist upon its temporary nature being acknowledged, as it was the original condition of its consent.

He was aware of the intimate and friendly relations which existed between Her Majesty's Government and that of Austro-Hungaria, and he felt that he could reckon upon the good-will of Her Majesty's Government, and their desire to assist the Porte in its difficulties. He therefore turned to them, and he begged your Lordship to use your good influence with Count Andrassy, to induce him to accept the four points, which would only confirm in writing what had never been denied in language.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 280.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 184.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a message from the Grand Vizier this morning to say that he wished to see me during the course of the day, and I went to his Highness soon after receiving the message.

He informed me that the news which he had received from all sources regarding Eastern Roumelia was of a very gloomy nature; the population were being trained to the idea that they must resist the entry of the Ottoman authorities after the evacuation by the Russians, and they had been furnished with arms, ammunition, and organization for this purpose. His Highness feared that it would not be possible for the Sultan to regain possession of the province by peaceable means, and he desired to ask the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and their advice as to the course which it would be proper for the Porte to pursue. He felt that an entry by force of arms, followed by conflict, would excite anew all the feelings antagonistic to Turkey in England, which had already wrought her so much harm; but if the accounts were true which he received—and their unanimity proved them to be so—he saw no means of avoiding it, if the Treaty was to be carried out and the Sultan's authority reinstalled.

He purposely gave no opinion himself as to what ought to be done, as he did not wish to bias the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, who must be equally well informed with himself as to the state of the province, and must have already considered the question of the manner in which the Treaty was to be executed. He did not hold back from the armed occupation, though he confessed that, besides the bloodshed which it would lead to, and which was necessarily a most painful prospect, he also was aware that in the present state of the finances of the Empire he hardly knew how he should feed the force required, much less how he should keep it efficiently clothed and equipped.

He begged me to telegraph to your Lordship, as he was anxious to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 281.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 185.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report and its inclosures which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt upon the results of the late insurrection in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 281.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, February 15, 1879.*

HAVING heard from some Greeks of Volo that the fund raised in England for the relief of the Christian population of Macrinitza, and other villages in the vicinity of Volo, who suffered from the late events in Thessaly, had been very negligently distributed, I requested Mr. Longworth to furnish me with information on the subject.

I have now the honour to transmit herewith Mr. Longworth's Report, and beg leave to accompany it with the following remarks:—

In the first place it is strange that the Hellenic Vice-Consul at Volo, at the time he was complaining to his Government of the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly levying taxes from the villages of Volo (*vide* Memorandum from Hellenic Legation at Constantinople, dated 10th October, 1878), showed such negligence in the distribution of the money entrusted to him for the relief of these very villages.

With reference to the "approximate" list of Christian villages devastated in Thessaly as furnished to and embodied in the Report of Mr. Longworth, I should point out that it does not correspond with the data which I have collected on the subject during my visits to the disturbed districts, and may mislead those who are imperfectly acquainted with the system of land tenure and the condition of the rural population in this province, as to the amount of injury the Christians have suffered from the insurrection. The list does not distinguish the "Kephalo-horia,"

head or independent villages, that is to say, village communes whose inhabitants own the lands attached to them, as well as the houses they contain, from the tchiftliks, or private estates, which are very numerous in Thessaly, and which, although tenanted by Christian peasant cultivators,* are all owned by Turkish or Christian notables.

The tchiftliks, in fact, are farms let out to the peasants, who have no right or title to the lands or to the houses on them. Thus the loss from the destruction of house property in the village communes falls exclusively on their inhabitants, and that of the tchiftliks on their landlords, and not on their tenants.

In order to enable your Excellency to form an estimate of the losses which have affected both classes of proprietors, I have prepared the two inclosed returns. No. 1 shows the Christian Kephalo-horia, or village communes, and No. 2 the tchiftliks (estates), in which house property has been plundered and destroyed. Before I pursue my inquiries further, I should mention that I gather from the Tables I am preparing of the population and resources of Thessaly, that there are in this province 13 towns, 300 village communes, of which 81 are Turkish, 202 Christian, and 17 mixed Turkish and Christian; and 421 estates, of which 265 are owned by Turks, 108 by Christians, and 48 by Turks and Christians jointly. The two Returns I have inclosed show that the aggregate of houses destroyed in 16 Christian village communes is 682, and of churches 8; and of the houses and churches destroyed in 24 estates, the numbers are 624 and 6 respectively. Of these estates 14 are owned by Turks, 3 by the Crown, 3 by Christians, 3 by Turks and Christians jointly, and 1 by the Crown and Greek Church; 4 of them were entirely destroyed, and are owned as follows:—1 by the Turks, 1 by Christians, 1 by Turks and Christians jointly, and 1 by the Crown.

I also inclose a Return, No. 3, showing that 607† houses and 18 mosques have been destroyed in 39 Turkish Kephalo-Horia.

To make these returns more complete and comprehensive I have noted in them, under the column of remarks, by whom the houses were destroyed; and in Return No. 2 I have inserted in a separate column the names of the proprietors of the estates that have been devastated.

I should add that a great deal of the information they contain was collected by me during my visits to the disturbed districts, and that, on the whole, it substantially agrees with the statements of many villagers and tenants I have examined, and renders an impartial and fair account of the amount of house property destroyed during the insurrection.

Most of this property was deliberately and wantonly plundered and destroyed by the Bashi-Bazouks, and by the insurgents—a large proportion by the latter.

The Bashi-Bazouks, as a rule, lived at free quarters in the villages, robbed and shamefully ill-treated their inhabitants, and desecrated their churches. They generally burned the villages and estates that were suspected of harbouring or otherwise befriending the insurgents, and as, at the outset of the insurrection, the province was denuded of regular troops, the authorities were powerless to restrain their rapacity and cruel outrages, and the Christian peasants, discerning that their legitimate authorities were unable to afford them any protection, joined the insurgent ranks, or, as was more generally the case, abandoned their villages and took refuge in the mountains. The most serious act of atrocity these irregulars committed, and which excited general indignation and alarm, occurred at Bulgarini, a village of 100 houses situated about six hours from Larissa. After defeating the insurgents at Coucorava, which they pillaged, they went to Bulgarini, plundered it, and burned three of its houses, and massacred and burned the bodies of eight of the principal inhabitants of the place who were coming to the village to offer their submission. The names of these unfortunate individuals are (1) Gligori; (2) Yani Condoyani; (3) Theodor Christo; (4) Christos Barlanos; (5) Dimitrios Macroulis; (6) Georgios Pappadopoulos; (7) Athanassios Stathopoulos; and (8) Yani Peppa Georgio. Happily the rest of the inhabitants had fled to the mountains, and the regular troops arrived on the spot, or most probably the number of victims would have been more numerous, and the village completely devastated.

Mr. Longworth, who visited the place almost immediately after these occurrences, bears testimony to the prompt and resolute efforts made by Lieutenant-Colonel Hadji Hassan Bey, and Major Abdullah Bey, in command of the troops, to prevent the total

* All the estates in Thessaly are occupied exclusively by Christian tenants, and form a very large proportion of the population of the province.—J. E. B.

† Including twelve Christian houses burnt in mixed Christian and Turkish village of Kieki, and which should be transferred to the aggregate number of houses burnt in Christian village communes.—J. E. B.

destruction of the village. I should mention, in connection with this horrible case, that when the insurgents occupied Bulgarini they found in the place three tax-gatherers, named Suleiman, Mehmed Teham, and Kassim, all Mahommedans, as their names indicate.

Suleiman, although repeatedly fired upon by the insurgents, managed to escape with only a slight wound; Mehmed Teham's life was spared upon his promising to join the Greek Church and the insurgent cause, but he was subsequently rescued by the Turks during the engagement at Coucorava; Kassim, however, a Ghega Albanian, was murdered by the insurgents, and when the Ghega Albanians, shortly afterwards, discovered his headless and cruelly mutilated body, they vowed to revenge themselves upon the whole village.

Some of the Mahommedan inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Alifaklar, which the insurgents had plundered a few days before, also took an active part in the pillage of Bulgarini, and eventually the insurgents retaliated by burning their village.

The sufferings and distress inflicted by the Bashi-Bazouks on the Christian rural population, and not unfrequently on the Turkish, were aggravated by the misconduct of the insurgent bands, who also harassed the poor people by free quarters and heavy impositions.

As most of these bands were recruited from the brigand and other lawless classes in Greece and Turkey, and were under no military organization or discipline, they proved as bad as, if not worse than, the Bashi-Bazouks, and plundered and devastated all that escaped the rapacity of the latter; and, upon the whole, their character, composition, and excesses predisposed the Christians against them, and prevented the movement from becoming general; nay, more, it is a fact that some of the large Christian village communes and estates, particularly in the important district of Tricalla, which does not contain a single Turkish village, organized, with the concurrence of the Ottoman authorities, a local militia to maintain order and protect their properties as much from the inroads of these lawless bands as from the excesses of the Turkish irregulars.

And it is very significant that this district suffered very little from the late events, for from its mountainous character, its vicinity to the border, and its exclusively Christian population, it was selected by the numerous agents of the "Amina" (Defence Committee in Greece), as one of the most promising centres of their insurrectionary efforts. Only one of its Christian village communes, "Porta-Baznar," was burnt by the irregulars, and one estate, "Beletz," belonging to a Turk, by the insurgents.

This attitude of the Christian inhabitants exasperated some of the bands and induced them to follow the wicked plan, carried out in former insurrections in this province, of burning the villages and estates and plundering their working oxen, horses, cattle, and sheep, in the hope of forcing the inhabitants to revolt. And the more the poor people remained passive the more they suffered from their self-called liberators.

The armistice that was concluded at Adrianople enabled the Ottoman Government to send a sufficient force to Thessaly to meet the emergency; the scattered bands were attacked and driven out of Mounts Pelion, Ossa, and Olympus, and were gradually thrown back upon the Agrapha (Pindus) and Goura (Othrys) Mountains, forming the boundary line where they entrenched themselves in impregnable positions, the capture of which would have entailed heavy losses on the Turks.

Fortunately, the timely and friendly intervention of Her Majesty's Government prevented further conflicts and bloodshed, and rescued the inhabitants of the province from a struggle which would have completely ruined them. Both Turks and Christians are most grateful to Her Majesty's Government for its humane efforts in their behalf; and with reference to the Christians, I have observed, in my intercourse with them, that although they all are, more or less, in favour of annexation with "Elephtera Hellas," Free Greece, in the hope of improving their condition, they don't wish this change to be effected by violent means; and they hope that the late insurrectionary expeditions will not be renewed by the Committees in Greece.

In speaking of the misconduct of the insurgents, I should explain that my remarks more particularly apply to the auxiliary bands of robbers, and not to those composed of deserters from the Hellenic army and enthusiastic young Greeks, some of them fresh from school, under the leadership of brave and patriotic Chiefs such as Ishomathos, Loris, Axilos, Soutzo, Tertibi, Petousis, Kartali, Apostolidi, and others, whose firmness and honourable conduct, under very trying circumstances, prevented many cruel excesses. The bands that were commanded by these patriots were held in

fair order and discipline, and conducted their operations with some regard to the rules of civilized warfare. And here I may add that the Turkish Pashas, Bajaksiz Ahmet, Rejeb, and Muhliss, acted with humanity towards the insurgents. Most of the local Beys also successfully exerted themselves in behalf of the Christians, and prevented the outburst of a fanatical spirit on the part of the Mahommedans.

Husni Bey, Ghalib Bey, Malik Effendi, and Dervish Bey, acting in concert with the Greek Archbishop of Lwissa, were among the first to counsel moderation and justice, and to promote confidence and order.

The state of the country and the sufferings of the inhabitants were bad enough, yet not bad enough to satisfy those who were trying to mislead public opinion in Europe in favour of a movement which had collapsed; stories of massacres and outrages were, therefore, fabricated and largely circulated through the Greek press, and the province was represented as being covered with blood and ashes! In most of the towns in Thessaly the Defence Committee of Greece had secret agents who manufactured these stories; and no sooner was their report of a massacre disproved than they invented a fresh one. For instance, one of these reports stated that more than thirty Christians had been massacred in a cavern not far from Bulgarini. Mr. Longworth at once proceeded to the spot, and after a careful inquiry reported that there was no truth whatever in the statement.

Another report represented that more than 800 women and children had been massacred by the Turks at the village of Palatitza, in the district of Veria. It was telegraphed to the "Standard," and to other newspapers; but most fortunately Colonel Synge, who was at his farm at the time, situate about an hour's distance from Palatitza, was enabled by a visit to the spot to contradict this alleged butchery. Again, another report accused the Turkish troops of using explosive bullets against the insurgents; and the following incident illustrates the impunity with which this system of inganuation was carried on: His Excellency the Vice-Admiral, commanding Her Majesty's fleet in the Sea of Marmora, received a telegram purporting to be from the Italian Consular Agent and Acting British Vice-Consul at Volo (Mr. Borrell), imploring him to send a vessel of war to protect and remove a large number of Christian women and children who had escaped from the Turks and taken refuge in the mountains near the coast of Thessaly. The Admiral most promptly responded to this appeal by sending to Volo Her Majesty's ship "Ruby," Captain Molyneux, who, on landing, was surprised to learn that the telegram forwarded to the Admiral was a forgery!

In concluding, I beg leave to report that, although both sides have murdered innocent people, and have plundered and burned villages and farmsteads, and desecrated churches and mosques, their excesses, upon the whole, were not so intense and sanguinary as those committed during the insurrection of 1853-54 in this province; and are thrown into the shade when compared with the acts of savagery and wide-spread bloodshed which have indelibly tarnished the late war in Bulgaria and Roumelia.

I am assured by impartial persons that relatively few Christians and Mahommedans were massacred or put to the sword in cold blood; and natives of respectability doubt if the aggregate number of Christian men, women, and children who have so suffered exceeds sixty-three, and that of the Turks twenty-one.

I should add that numerous prisoners were made, and were humanely treated by both sides; that no "bloody assizes" were held in the province; and that the local Courts-Martial administered their powers carefully, I may say mercifully: they sent no one to the gallows!

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Volo, January 10, 1879.

Sir,

IN pursuance of your instructions dated the 31st December, 1878, I have the honour to report upon the distribution of the fund raised in England for the relief of the destitute Greeks of Macrinitza and the adjacent villages of Volo.

In doing so I beg first to draw your attention to the following copy in writing of a printed Circular published in London.

"*Fund for the Relief of the Christian Population in Villages near Volo.*

"Dear Sir, "*London, June* 3, 1878.

"The Correspondent of the 'Standard,' the only representative of the English Press at that time in Volo, on the 24th April appealed to 'British philanthropy' on behalf of the Christian population in Macrinitza and adjacent villages, whose sufferings the late Correspondent of the 'Times,' Mr. Charles C. Ogle, had endeavoured to mitigate.

"In response to that appeal of the one Correspondent, and in accordance with the benevolent efforts of the other, a subscription list has been opened, in which it is hoped your name will appear.

"Contributions to this fund will be received at the Ionian Bank, 31, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., or by the Honorary Secretary, John Ogle, Sevenoaks.

"The urgency of this case is such as to call for very prompt action.

"The sum of 50*l.* (fifty pounds), has already been dispatched, through the Ionian Bank, to the order of M. Tricoupi at Athens, and it will be followed by sums of not less than that amount at the shortest possible intervals. These will be expended by the Committee in Volo, consisting of Mr. Longworth, the Italian, French, Greek, and English Vice-Consuls.

"As the population to be succoured is confessedly small, compared with others which the munificence of England has relieved, it is presumed that the subscription list need not be kept open long. We subjoin a list of subscriptions already received.

"A Committee will be immediately formed in London, by whom all contributions to the fund will be duly advertised.

"Hoping to have your zealous concurrence, we are, &c.

(Signed) "W. F. Baker.
"W. Farr.
"Joseph Lucas.
"A. N. MacNicoll.
"John Ogle.
"Geo. E. Wainwright.
"Chas. Waithman.

"Subscribers.

	£	s.	d.
Sir Charles Henry Mills, M.P.	10	0	0
John Thornton Rogers, Esq.	5	0	0
William J. Thompson, Esq.	5	0	0
J. S. Talbot, Esq., M.P.	3	0	0
John Jones, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. B. Poile Thompson, M.A.	1	0	0
William Rudgard, Esq.	1	0	0
Charles C. Ogle; relatives of	25	0	0
Professor W. B. Hodgson, M.A., LL.D.	1	0	0
A. N. MacNicoll, Esq.	3	3	0
Miss Mayo	1	1	0
Charles Waithman, Esq.	2	2	0
W. Farr, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.	1	1	0
Joseph Lucas, Esq.	1	1	0
Arthur Anderson, Esq.	5	0	0
W. F. Baker, Esq.	5	5	0
Thomas Plews, Esq.	5	5	0
James Waddell, Esq.	5	5	0
R. Rayner, Esq.	3	3	0
Geo. E. Wainwright, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. Charles Neil	1	0	0
Joseph Starling, Esq.	1	0	0
James Benham, Esq.	2	2	0
Fred. J. Wood, Esq.	2	2	0
J. Whilson, Esq.	2	2	0
Dr. Mitchell	3	0	0
Mrs. Ramsay	1	0	0
C. B. Renshaw, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Pamler	5	0	0
C. West, Esq.	0	10	0
Mrs. Hawk, collected by	3	3	0
John Marlin, Esq.	1	0	0
Total	113	9	0

On the 23rd May last the Committee in Volo furnished the one in London with the following particulars, which were the only ones obtainable at the time. The list, as you will probably yourself observe, is a revised form of the original suppressed by telegram as greatly exaggerated.

APPROXIMATE List of Christian villages devastated in Thessaly during the late insurrectionary movements:—

Districts.	No.	Names of Villages.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses Destroyed.	No. of Churches Destroyed.	No. of Schools Destroyed.
Phersala	1	Yenikli	40	8	1	..
	2	Mantassia	30	20	..	..
	3	Deckli	90	32	..	..
	4	Kepanti	25	15	..	..
	5	Dereli	30	15	..	..
	6	Koitza	90	40	..	..
	7	Pournari	40	3	1	..
	8	Vellestino	50	15	1	..
Karditza	9	Mavromati	140	130	..	..
	10	Monaki	130	65	..	..
	11	Mataranga	140	120	1	1
	12	Pyrgos	40	27	1	..
	13	Mageluri	50	34	..	1
	14	Sophadis	250	40	1	2
Agia	15	Vulgarini	80	10	..	..
	16	Platano	350	350	3	2
Armyro	17	Calivia	30	30	1	1
	18	Karya	112	48	..	..
Ellassona	19	Poulinna	132	45	..	..
	20	Sylica	50	10	..	..
Tricalla	21	Belitzi	55	15	3	..
	22	Porta	80	75	..	..
Larissa	23	Rapsani	1,350	200	..	..
7 Districts.	23	Villages.	3,314	1,347	12	7

It will be seen by this list that it is not the villages in the district of Volo, but those in the other parts of the province, that have actually suffered from the events of the insurrection. In a letter dated Armyro, the 17th September, I endeavoured to make Mr. Ogle aware of this in the following words:—"I am glad to find that there are Englishmen so ready to help these poor people in their misery, but at the same time sorry that this flow of generosity should be confined to the villages of Volo, whilst relief is far more wanted among the inhabitants of the interior of Thessaly. The losses sustained from more recent events, I should add by the people in the Domoko district" [I allude here to the fires] "exceed in my opinion those in the other localities of the province."

On the 30th May the first 50*l.* were placed at the disposal of the Committee in Volo, the distribution of which was left by the other members at the discretion of the Greek Vice-Consul, M. Tzoitti, who, unfortunately, owing to an indisposition and to the multiplicity of his duties, entirely neglected the work during the month of June. The following is a list of the relief in flour distributed by him from July to October.

The average cost of the flour may be calculated at 3 piastres the oke, a Turkish weight of about 2¾ lbs.

No.	Name of Village.	Men Relieved.	Women Relieved.	Flour Distributed.
				Okes.
1	Macrinitza	1	13	480
2	Village of Volo	3	3	200
3	Argalasti	3	2	150
4	Platano	1	4	180
5	Portaria	1	3	120
6	Zagora	..	1	60
7	Alimeria	..	1	30
		9	27	1,220

We thus find that a period of five months had elapsed before half the sum had been distributed. This is to be much regretted, for although on the cessation of hostilities a number of people found themselves in a state of semi-starvation, and entirely dependent on the charity of their communities, yet, before scarcely any aid

from the fund was given, they had recovered from this state of pauperism by earning sufficient themselves for the more urgent requirements of life.

On the 17th October I addressed Mr. Ogle the following letter, which was prompted, partly by the dilatory course pursued here in distributing the relief, and partly by an unwillingness to be a member of a Committee in which I could not act:—

"Dear Sir,

"Immediately on my arrival at Volo, I had an interview with the Greek Vice-Consul, M. Tzoitti, on the affairs of the Committee.

"To my very great surprise this gentleman informed me that the first 50*l.* of the relief fund has not yet been expended, although it is nearly five months since it has been placed at his disposal.

"The object of my letter is to tell you that I am under the painful necessity of withdrawing my name from this charitable work as I feel the responsibilities to be of a serious nature, and my control over them quite inadequate, owing to my other occupations.

"It is, I believe, an understood fact that my time is not my own, and that my official duties prevent my giving sufficient attention to this work. The motives that induce me to withdraw, therefore, will, I am certain, be fully appreciated.

"I am, &c."

Shortly after this M. Tricoupi, having been requested by Mr. Ogle to find some other person to take up the matter, remitted to M. A. Nicolaidis, a merchant at Volo, the sum of 128 Turkish liras for distribution.

The latter, having collected the necessary certificates from the headmen and priests of the villages relative to the number of poor in their respective communities, distributed the relief in money, obtained receipts for each separate sum, and forwarded the vouchers to M. Tricoupi in Athens.

In the list marked No. 1, the rest is given of the 50*l.* also distributed in flour by M. Tzoitti during October, November, and December.

In the list marked No. 2, the sum is given of 128 Turkish liras, or 24,064 piastres in current money, distributed by M. Nicolaidis during the month of November.

Thus the aid obtained by the poor of these parts from contributions effected in England until now amounts to a sum total of nearly 160*l.* 10*s.*

No. I.

No.	Name of Village.	Men Relieved.	Women Relieved.	Flour Distributed.
				Okes.
1	Macrinitza	1	11	690
2	Town of Volo	3	6	380
3	Platano	4	2	290
4	Agia Lavreotí	..	1	100
5	Village of Volo	1	..	50
6	Portaria	..	1	50
7	Sylica	..	1	50
		9	22	1,510

No. II.

Date.	Name of Village.	Families Relieved.	Persons Relieved.	Amount of Relief.
				Frs.
Nov. 1	Platano	6	25	764
,, 1	Cassourna	1	7	400
,, 10	Milies	11	51	1,292
,, 12	,, ...	6	22	908
,, 13	Catikori	1	..	412·50
,, 13	Nikori	9	37	2,219
,, 16	,, ...	1	4	272
,, 19	Volo	6	36	830
,, 19	Argalasti	3	10	950
,, 19	Vulgariné	17	67	2,036
,, 22	Catikori	1	3	560
,, 26	Ameassia	10	50	1,762
,, 27	Vulgariné	1	..	824
,, 27	Argalasti	1	8	2,820
,, 29	,, ...	4	27	692
	Sundry expenses ..	..	..	232·50
				24,064

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 281.

Return No. 1.—Houses and Churches destroyed in Christian "Kephalo-horia" Village Communes in Thessaly during the Insurrection of 1878.

District.	Villages.	Original Number of Houses in each Village.	Number of Houses Destroyed.	Number of Churches Destroyed.	Remarks.
Armyro	Platanos	261	226	2	Stone houses. Was populous and prosperous, but from its vicinity to Hellenic border became the centre of the insurrection in District of Armyro; and was pillaged and burned by Bashi-Bazouks, after defeat of insurgents by Turkish troops.
Ditto	Calivia	49	48	1	Eleven stone houses and thirty-eight reed huts. The village is on the border line, and was destroyed by insurgents, after the villagers had carried their goods and chattels into Greece.
Volo	Macrinitza	Nil	Nil	1	Greek monastery on the heights of Macrinitza. It was used as a military store by insurgents, and afterwards partially destroyed by Turkish troops.
Larissa .. .. .. And sub-districts.	Rapshani	403	182	2	Stone houses. Inhabitants engaged in cultivation of silk. Insurgent bands having appeared in its vicinity, the villagers fled to the mountains, and the Bashi-Bazouks pillaged the place, and burned 182 of its houses and 52 shops, as well as an interesting library of Greek works, ancient and modern.
Ditto	Bulgarini	90	3	..	Houses of mud-bricks; few of stone. It was pillaged, and three of its houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks, after it was abandoned by insurgents and villagers. Turkish troops saved the place from total destruction, and recovered most of the plunder, which they deposited in the village church.
Allasona	.. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Tricala	Porta-Bassar	52	36	..	Pillaged and burnt by Bashi-Bazouks.
Carditza	Coitza	73	58	1	Ditto.
Ditto	Draniata	42	15	..	Uncertain by whom destroyed.
Ditto	Smokoro	73	15	..	Well built stone houses. Burnt by insurgents.
Ditto	Tirnaphim	45	10	..	Burnt by insurgents.
Ditto	Castanin	58	13	..	Quarter of an hour from Greek border. Burnt by insurgents, after villagers took refuge in Greece.
Ditto	Zoglop	86	1	..	By insurgents.
Ditto	Aylos-Giorgi	111	15	..	Pillaged and burnt by Bashi-Bazouks.
Pharsala .. .. And sub-district of Domoco.	Palama	44	30	1	About half-an-hour from Hellenic border. Was burnt by insurgents after villagers fled to Greece.
Ditto	Mandasha	25	12	..	Burnt by Bashi-Bazouks, after villagers fled to Greece.
	Yenakia	40	19	..	One hour from Hellenic border. Was burnt by insurgents after villagers fled to Greece.
		1,459	682	8	

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Larissa, February 15, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 281.

Return No. 2.—Houses and Churches destroyed in the "Tchiftliks" (Estates) in Thessaly during the Insurrection of 1878.

District.	Names of Estates.	Names of Proprietors of Estates.	Original Number of Houses in each Estate.	Number of Houses Destroyed.	Number of Churches Destroyed.	Remarks.
Armyro	Nil.					
Volo	Nil.					
Larissa .. .. And its sub-districts	Kourklot .. .. In Greek "Caria"	Heirs of late Rechid Pasha.	124	25	..	Bashi-Bazouks burnt the houses, after the estate had been abandoned by its tenants.
	Pollana	Ditto	183	35	..	Ditto.
Allasona	Nil.					
Tricala	Beletz	Daughter of Ahmet Bey. Greek monastery of Doulsko having a share.	41	10	..	Burnt by insurgents.
Carditza	Mouzek	Crown property ..	124	99	..	Burnt by Bashi-Bazouks.
	Covanadess ..	Muslim Agha ..	35	1	..	The residence of proprietor burnt by insurgents.
	Pirgo-Mataranga ..	Fatmeh Hanem ..	32	29	1	By Bashi-Bazouks.
	Muscolour .. Sofades	Heirs of late Ismail Pasha.	65 / 269	16 / 25	1 / 1	These two estates were first partially plundered by insurgents, and next by the Bashi-Bazouks, who also burnt the houses and churches, after the engagement at Mataranga.
	Mavromati ..	Part owned by Crown and part by Greek Church.	121	94	1	Burnt by Bashi-Bazouks, after driving out the insurgents.
	Mataranga	Heirs of late Tewfik Pasha.	134	103	1	The Bashi-Bazouks took to plundering and burning the estate while the Turkish troops were engaged in driving out the insurgents, who had occupied the place in force.
Pharsala .. .. And sub-district of Domoco.	Reis	Yusuf Bey and Hamid Bey.	6	2	..	Burnt by Bashi-Bazouks.
	Gherinlelu .. .. In Greek "Yenikeroi."	Mahtar Agha ..	9	6	..	
	Agowiyani	Crown property ..	57	20	..	Burnt by insurgents.
	Daoulia	Daughter of Ahmet Shukri Effendi.	76	36	..	
	Derbent .. .. In Greek "Courfa"	Crown property ..	20	20	..	
	Gul-beyli .. .. In Greek "Allaki"	Elias Agha	19	19	..	
	Cara-Hassan ..	Hussein Agha ..	0	3	..	
	Yourbanli	Ditto	20	15	..	
	Tchofoular ..	Dervish Bey and Djullal Effendi.	30	2	..	
	Niriés .. .. In Greek "Aylos Stephanos."	Andonaki & Andrea Banouni, Greeks.	20	20	..	Uncertain by whom burnt.
	Velesbot	Photiadi Pasha, Governor-General of Crete.	70	9	..	By insurgents.
	Mesoudli .. .. In Greek "Mesil"	Goulia Tchapallo, Greek.	25	9	..	Four houses burnt by Greek insurgents; and five by Bashi-Bazouks.
	Dorell	Yani, Andon, and Dimitri, Greeks; and Hussein Agha, Turk.	48	48	1	Uncertain by whom burnt.
	Pournari	Ghiorgaki Zamba, Greek; and Hassan Agha, Turk.	44	4	..	By insurgents.
			1,620	624	6	

Inclosure 5 in No. 281.

Return No. 3.—Houses and Mosques destroyed in Turkish "Kephalo-horia" (Village Communes) in Thessaly during Insurrection of 1878.

District.	Names of Villages.	Original Number of Houses in each Village.	Number of Houses Destroyed.	Number of Mosques Destroyed.	Remarks.
Armyro	Bakhalou	13	10	1	
	Yaighijilla	6	4	..	
	Gratémenlo	9	7	..	
	Klotélar	15	10	1	Burnt by insurgents.
	Turkémenkha	23	18	1	
	Gachayld	9	6	1	
	Ghedik	20	13	1	
	Dogirlia	45	20	1	
	Karadanalou	22	10	1	
	Corfali	39	5	1	A mixed Turkish and Christian village, containing twenty Turkish and thirty-eight Christian houses. The five Turkish houses and mosque were destroyed by insurgents.
Volo	Nil.				
Larissa	Alifaklar	51	47	1	Destroyed by insurgents.
Allassona	Nil.				
Trieala	Nil.				
Carditza	Omerlar	58	55	1	Ditto.
	Asli-hanli	38	35	1	
	Hadji Amirlar	21	17	..	
	Karalar	56	20	..	
	Djuma	60	10	..	Destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks.
	Ilsibal	19	15	..	
	Sehatma	32	4	..	
Pharsala	Karadjali	32	20	1	
And sub-district of Domoco.	Tchaklu	40	35	1	
	Ilarova	9	7	..	
	Doyran-ova	13	10	..	
	Kotchélou E	33	15	1	
	Kitillar	37	18	..	
	Tchakrlu	36	21	1	
	Kalookla-ova	26	13	1	
	Gioksklu	57	10	1	
	Shatirlo-hala	28	9	..	Destroyed by insurgents.
	Darendilu	21	1	..	
	Hanó-Abaklo	32	12	..	
	Afvalu	13	4	..	
	Taushan-ova	49	3	..	
	Vardarlu	46	20	..	
	Yukarl-ova	58	10	..	
	Pasbalu	33	32	1	
	Ghedik	11	1	..	
	Ai-dogmishlu	15	10	..	
	Koshu-ova	32	4	..	
	Kirlo	78	44	..	Mixed Turkish and Christian village, of fifty Turkish and twenty-eight Christian houses. Thirty-two Turkish houses were burnt by the insurgents, and twelve Christian houses by the Bashi-Bazouks.
	In Greek "Illisdou."				
		1,289	607	18	

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Larissa, February 15, 1879.

No. 282.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 186. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1879.*

AFTER seeing the Grand Vizier to-day, I spoke to Caratheodory Pasha on the subject of the request which his Highness had made to me to ask, on his behalf, for the opinion of Her Majesty's Government regarding the manner in which the Province of Eastern Roumelia should eventually be replaced under the dominion of the Sultan.

His Excellency and I had talked the matter over on previous occasions, and while we both agreed that the news which came from all sides rendered a pacific solution

of the question very unlikely, he seemed to be more hopeful on the subject than I was. He said that he thought the Porte ought, in the first place, to occupy the whole of the Vilayet of Adrianople, and so have a force ready to march into the Balkans the moment the Russians left. If troops entered in considerable numbers from the west, avoiding traversing Eastern Roumelia from south to north, he thought they would not meet with much resistance, and when once they had taken up strong positions in the mountains he trusted that the population would be overawed, and would, by degrees, consent to enjoy the Constitution which the European Commission had prepared for them. But he said that this plan was seriously interfered with by the northern boundary of the province not having been settled. In the course of the occupation it must occur that the Ottoman troops would traverse and hold territory which was claimed by the Bulgarians. Hence differences would arise, and the troops might find themselves in unintentional collision with Bulgarians to the north, while they had a hostile population on the south. He, therefore, earnestly hoped that the Commission of Delimitation would recommence its labours as soon as possible, with a view to their completion before the evacuation of the Russians. The weather was fine, and there was nothing to hinder it.

In consequence of the request of the Grand Vizier necessitating an announcement of opinion on the part of Her Majesty's Government, I venture to submit to your Lordship the only mode which has occurred to me which may afford a possible means of inducing the Eastern Roumelians to accept pacifically the return of the Ottoman authorities. I would suggest that when the Porte has made up its mind that the authority of the Sultan can only be reinstated by force of arms, it should address a note to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, stating the necessity and requesting them to appoint officers of high rank to accompany the occupying force, with a view to showing that the measure was taken with the consent of Europe, and also in order that the people of Eastern Roumelia should have a guarantee as to the force being used for the accomplishment of a specific and legitimate object without the employment of harsher measures than would be sanctioned in other countries under similar circumstances.

It is probable that Russia would find an excuse for not sending a Commissioner, but if the other Powers could be induced to accept, and their *amour propre* with regard to the Treaty of Berlin ought to lead them to do so, I cannot but think that the population would yield without armed opposition. It is difficult to suppose that they would be willing to engage in a conflict which would have the visible sanction of Europe displayed by the presence of the military representations of the Signatory Powers with the army of occupation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 283.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 187. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, came to me this afternoon and spoke to me on the subject of the negotiations going on between his Excellency and the Porte with regard to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Treaty of Berlin. He said that he had received great assistance in these negotiations through the advice given by Sir Henry Layard to the Porte, and that he proposed to keep me informed, as he had Sir Henry, of the progress of his labours.

The account which he gave me of the present stage of the negotiations coincided with the information given to me by Caratheodory Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which I have reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 182, Confidential, of yesterday's date. His Excellency's positive instructions with regard to the insertion of the word "temporary" in designating the occupation left no hope that the Austro-Hungarian Government would yield, and his Excellency pointed out to me valid reasons for the refusal. He said that the reforms which it was proposed to introduce into the provinces would have no chance of taking root if the minds of the population were imbued with the idea that the Ottoman power might return at any moment with all its concomitant system. I said to his Excellency that I feared, from what I had learnt, that the Sultan would refuse to allow the Convention to be made unless the word were used. His Majesty had nothing to show to his people in exchange for the

absolute cession of the provinces, and he was afraid of the ill-will which he would attract to himself by accepting a Convention in which he would appear to be entirely the loser. His Excellency replied that these apprehensions were idle, as the Turkish people were the most docile in the world, and would accept the Convention, whatever it was. I remarked that the Sultan was unfortunately a timid Sovereign, and that though his apprehensions were no doubt exaggerated, we had none the less to reckon on them in estimating the chances of concluding the negotiation. His Excellency said that it would be a very serious matter for Turkey if the negotiations were broken off, as the policy of Austria-Hungary would necessarily change. The Secret Declaration of the 13th June would cease to be valid, on account of the non-fulfilment by the Porte of the 3rd clause, relating to an immediate understanding being come to regarding the occupation between the two Powers.

On this I asked whether, if the Convention was concluded, the Secret Declaration remained in force? His Excellency replied in the affirmative. Then I said, why should not a secret clause be added to the Convention, confirming the former Secret Declaration of 13th June? I presumed that the hesitation of the Sultan arose in a great measure from a suspicion that his Plenipotentiaries had been over-reached at Berlin, and that he might acknowledge that by such a declaration Austria would give the required proof of good faith. On the other hand, as the Secret Declaration held good, provided the Convention was concluded, there could be no objection to the Austro-Hungarian Government affirming the fact.

His Excellency said that he would accept the suggestion, but that he must first have the Convention. He should be ready to state to the Porte that he would obtain from his Government permission to add a Secret Declaration that the conclusion of the Convention in no way affected the validity of the Secret Declaration of the 13th June. But in order to obtain the permission of his Government to make such a declaration he should be obliged to go to Vienna—that so far the Porte must trust him. He would undertake to remain away no longer than was necessary to confer personally on the subject, and he would guarantee his success. I asked his Excellency if he could be sure of obtaining the consent of his Government, and he replied that he was quite sure of it.

It appears to me that the Porte might trust his Excellency, for he could not return as Ambassador if he failed; and it is therefore not likely that he would make the condition proposed unless he had reason to know that he would succeed.

I asked Count Zichy whether he would himself suggest this compromise to the Porte, and he replied "Certainly not"—that he had given way more than he ought to have done already, but that the Porte would come to it of itself. He did not authorize me to make the suggestion.

With regard to the question of the occupation of Novi-Bazar, his Excellency read to me a declaration which he had given to the Porte, in writing, to the effect that the occupation would be the subject of an ulterior settlement, and that the Government of Austria-Hungary declared that they had no intention to occupy either Novi-Bazar or Mitrovitza at present; and his Excellency went on to say that as soon as the Convention was concluded, the Duke of Würtemberg would designate the places to be occupied and the strength of the garrisons.

I observed that the word "ulterior" had a bad effect, since it admitted of the postponement of the arrangement indefinitely. As his Excellency stated that such was in no way the intention of his Government, I presume that, on further negotiation, he would be prepared to specify the time, and so allay the suspicions of the Porte on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 284.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 188.)
Constantinople, February 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, reporting anti-Turkish demonstrations which have recently taken place at Demotica, Kirk-Kilissé, and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 284.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir,
Adrianople, February 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on the 22nd instant, Djordji Pasha, the newly appointed (Christian) Mutessarif of Demotica, arriving at his post, proceeded to visit the various Tribunals and public offices there, and addressed the local Turkish and Christian notables, exhorting them all to unite their efforts to his for the preservation of peace and harmony between the various communities.

Djordji Pasha then retired to the residence of the Greek Metropolitan at Demotica. After he had been there for the space of about an hour, a mob of Bulgarians and Greeks forced their way into the building with the intention of laying hold of the Mutessarif. The latter, with his host, the Metropolitan, sought an asylum in the adjoining church, where they shut themselves up, locking the doors inside, and thus kept the assailants at bay until the Russian Commandant came to the rescue with an armed force. A Turkish notable of Adrianople, named Sepetdji Emin Aga, who had accompanied the Mutessarif to Demotica, but not in any official capacity, was less fortunate. Unable to effect his escape in time, he was seized and very roughly handled by the mob before the Commandant arrived on the spot. A battalion of Russian infantry has been dispatched from this to Demotica to maintain order pending the arrival of the Ottoman troops.

I learn that telegrams were received by the Russian authorities here to-day from Demotica, and also from Kirk-Kilissé, reporting that the Christian inhabitants, Bulgarians and Greeks alike, at both places, express their determination not to accept the re-establishment of Turkish rule. As regards Kirk-Kilissé the statement can hardly be ascribed to Russian fancy, since it is coupled (as I am told) with the declaration, that the inhabitants have no objection to see the province quit of the Russians as well as the Turks, but that in any case their one object is union, along with Eastern Roumelia, to the Principality of Bulgaria.

I have no means of ascertaining at present to what extent this movement is supported by the Greeks, or Grecised Bulgarians, of Kirk-Kilissé; but by the admission of phil-Hellenes here Panslavic sentiments have of late been propagated with some degree of success among that section of the inhabitants of the districts whose Greek nationality they have until now insisted on.

At Adrianople there was again to-day a considerable influx of Christian peasants, accompanied by many women and children, from the neighbouring rural districts. Besides purely Bulgarian villages, such as Yeni-Kioï and Tcheumlek-Kioï, and mixed villages, as Demirdesh, the large villages of Tcheurek-Kioï (650 houses), Bosna-Kioï (490 houses), inhabited exclusively by Greeks, furnished their contingent on this occasion. Notwithstanding the undertaking given by General Skobeleff to the Consular deputation (as reported in my despatch No. 12 of the 21st instant), these people were allowed to enter the town without any hindrance. They filled the bazaar and the main street, and it was only when they began to raise disorderly cries that the Russo-Bulgarian police made a show of dispersing them. This proving ineffectual, a Russian superior officer presented himself at the head of a body of Cossacks, and called upon the villagers to return to their homes on pain of being subjected to force.

The villagers remonstrated, saying that they had come to Adrianople to receive the promised answer to the demand made by them on the 18th instant, the term mentioned by General Molostvoff having now expired; and that they had moreover been urged to present themselves to-day by the Russian police and others. It was only when the officer showed a determination to follow up his threats, by using actual force, that the mob of peasants was induced to retire from the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 285.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 189.)
Constantinople, February 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, giving further news of the continued arming of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, February 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the local authorities this morning received telegraphic advice that the Russian military authorities intend to distribute among the Bulgarians of the district 1,000 breech-loading rifles and 150,000 cartridges.

A similar quantity will be given to each of the sub-Governments of this province; the rifles, which are of those taken from the Turkish army, are not for the use of the Bulgarian militia, which is already armed, but are to be bestowed upon the Bulgarians of the different villages comprised in each district.

I am also informed that the Bulgarians of the town of Aidos, accompanied by a zaptieh, are now travelling through the villages of that and the neighbouring cazas, and collecting funds for the purpose of resisting the return of the Turkish rule into Roumelia.

They give out that they are commissioned by the authorities of Aidos, and charge the head men of each village with the collection of subscriptions, the minimum sum per adult male being fixed by them at 10 piastres; in some villages individual peasants have given or promised, in grain or money, to the value of 40 francs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BROPHY.

No. 286.

Mr. E. T. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 5.)
Constantinople, February 28, 1879.

My Lord,

ON the 24th instant I dispatched to your Lordship the following telegraph message:—

"Reform Commission has completed to-day examination of revenue estimates. The total, exclusive of Cyprus net revenue, is £ T. 14,247,000."

I have now the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a statement showing the amount estimated under the several heads of revenue.

The Commission has formed no estimate of the amount of the net revenue of Cyprus, it being understood that the sum to be paid on this account to the Government of Turkey is at present the subject of negotiations with Her Majesty's Government.

In order to complete the estimate, I have in the statement now submitted set down the Cyprus net revenue at £ T. 116,000, being the approximate equivalent of 105,000*l.* sterling.

The total estimated revenue thus arrived at is 14,362,820*l.*

I proceed to offer a few remarks explanatory of the grounds on which the several estimates have been made.

Verghi.—The amount estimated as the produce of the verghi (income and property tax) is based on the actual receipts of the year 1876-77. The amounts noted in the

margin have been deducted, and some allowance has been made for probable deficient receipts from the Province of Janina.*

Military Exemption.—The amount of the tax for military exemption has similarly been estimated on the basis of the actual collections made in the year 1876-77. The total receipts of that year were £ T. 739,398, of which about one half was contributed by the vilayets of the Danube, Bosnia, and Adrianople. The estimate has been taken at £ T. 340,000.

Dimes.—For the head of dimes (tithe on the produce of land) it was found that the receipts of the year 1876-77 would not serve as a basis for the estimate, inasmuch as a large proportion of the food grains received in kind had been appropriated for the use of the army in the field instead of being sold in the usual manner.

The Commission found that the average of the actual receipts of the five years 1871-72 to 1875-76 amounted to £ T. 6,460,702, or, after deducting the receipts from the provinces since detached, to about £ T. 4,700,000.

It was considered that, owing to the indirect effects of the war, the tithes could not be expected to yield a full average amount, and the sum of £ T. 4,500,000 was agreed to as the estimate under this head.

Sheep tax.—The produce of the sheep tax has been estimated at £ T. 1,400,000. This tax yielded, in the years 1871-72 to 1875-76, an average amount of £ T. 2,005,090, of which the districts now detached from the Empire gave £ T. 519,549.

As this branch of revenue has for some years been falling off in amount, I should have considered the estimate too high, had it not been shown that in several of the most important provinces the receipts in the current year have been above the average.†

Customs.—The customs produced in the two years 1875-76 and 1876-77 an average amount of £ T. 1,653,320, of which about £ T. 300,000 is considered to have been derived from the lost provinces. It is admitted that the Tariff duties have hitherto been very inadequately collected. In the estimate now made it is assumed that some substantial advantage will accrue to the Treasury from improvements in the administration of the Department of Customs.‡

It is probable that the sum of £ T. 1,600,000 inadequately represents the amount that ought to be received from this branch of revenue.

Tobacco.—The tobacco duty was, in the first instance, estimated by the Commission at £ T. 720,000, irrespective of a temporary addition of 50 per cent. made to the duty in August last. The amount realized from the tobacco revenue in the year 1877-78 was £ T. 855,296, of which £ T. 110,540 was derived from the detached provinces. It has been considered right to increase the estimate on account of the additional duty, and as the consumption will probably be but little affected by the increase of duty, to estimate the revenue from this source at £ T. 1,000,000.§

Spirits.—The receipts of the last twelve months are reported to have amounted to £ T. 191,000. The estimate has been taken at £ T. 180,000.

Salt.—The amount received from salt in the years 1876-77 and 1877-78 averaged about £ T. 700,000, which sum has been taken as the estimate under this head for the coming year.

		£ T.
* Amount realized in 1876-77		2,676,516
Deduct—	£ T.	
Cyprus	25,761	
Danube	239,579	
Bosnia	12,047	
Adrianople	214,620	
Scutari, in Albania part	1,377	
Batoum	1,317	
Kars and Childir	7,417	
		502,118
		2,174,398
† 1873-74		2,128,564
1874-75		2,008,342
1875-76		1,778,070
1876-77		1,091,073
‡ 1875-76		1,811,861
1876-77		1,494,777
§ 1874-75		725,098
1875-76		980,027
1876-77		1,045,550
1877-78		855,296

Silk.—The revenue from silk has been estimated at £ T. 35,000, with reference to the average receipts on this account of the three years 1874-75 to 1876-77.*

Tapou.—The "tapou," which is a duty on the registration of the title on successions to real property and sales of land, has been estimated to produce £ T. 200,000, according to a return received from the Administrative Department. The detached provinces contributed £ T. 523,854 to the receipts of the above years, the total of which appears from the financial accounts to have been £ T. 1,566,562.† The receipts under this head are subject to very considerable variation.

Stamps.—The stamp revenue has been estimated at £ T. 140,000, on the basis of the receipts of the year 1876-77. The receipts of that year amounted to £ T. 148,220, of which £ T. 3,842 were derived from the detached provinces.

Judicial Receipts.—Under the head of judicial receipts, the Commission adopted the amount of £ T. 88,000 set down in the estimate received from the Minister of Finance. The receipts for the six years 1871-72 to 1876-77 averaged £ T. 146,747, of which £ T. 56,002 were derived from the districts since detached.

Miscellaneous Duties.—The receipts classed under this head of miscellaneous duties ("Droits divers—résum tenvi") produced for the five years 1871-72 to 1875-76 the average amount of £ T. 475,024, the average amount of the receipts from the detached provinces having been £ T. 163,153. For the coming year the estimate has been taken at £ T. 310,000.

Nearly one-half of these receipts consists of the revenue derived from fisheries. The remainder is composed of a great variety of local and special duties. The following are included in it: pasturage duties, sponge and pearl fisheries, town octrois, duties levied in lieu of customs at certain Arabian ports, duty on pilgrims returning from Mecca, receipts from Constantinople bridges, tax on shops, duties on construction of boats, manufacture of gold and silver ornaments, cloth dyeing, calico printing, &c.

Crown Lands.—The amount entered against Crown lands £ T. 85,000 ("Domaines de l'Etat"), is based on the average receipts (about £10,000) realised by the sale of small parcels of land, and the produce and rent of farms and houses, the property of the State, which yield at present about £ T. 75,000.

Forests.—The forest revenue, estimated by the Director of Forests and Mines, amounts to £ T. 300,000. This sum, however, includes the revenue, amounting to £ T. 90,000, derived from gall nuts and vallonia, which are at present realized directly by the Financial Administration, and included in the tithes.

Deducting this amount, the departmental estimate is £ T. 210,000.

The realization of this estimate depends entirely upon projected improvements in the administration and control of this branch of the revenue.

The actual receipts of the year 1877-78 were only £ T. 53,062, of which £ T. 12,307 were obtained from the districts since detached. The result would not justify a larger estimate than £ T. 40,000.

The forest revenue has, however, in some earlier years been more productive, and is capable of considerable expansion. As the estimates of expenditure will contain provision for additional charges for inspection and control, it has been thought right to estimate for a part of the improvement anticipated.

The Director of Forests proposes to bring 2,000,000 hectares of additional forest lands under a system of inspection.

Mines.—The amounts estimated for mines is based on the reported receipts of the current year which are stated to be £ T. 117,050. Certain concessions and arrangements involving the annual payment of £ T. 10,490 have recently been made. The estimate has been taken at £ T. 180,000.

Marine Receipts.—The marine receipts have been taken at the amount £ T. 95,000 (omitting fractions), at which they were put in the estimate presented to the Commission.

The average receipts of the five years, 1871-72, to 1875-76, amounted to £ T. 129,099.

	£ T.
* 1874-75	99,164
1875-76	84,649
1876-77	84,748
† 1872-73	339,953
1873-74	276,290
1874-75	283,359
1875-76	216,728
1876-77	150,232

Telegraphs and Posts.—The loss in the receipts of the postal and telegraph departments, owing to territorial changes, cannot be very closely estimated, but appear to amount to about one-eighth of the whole receipts.

The amount of telegraph and postal receipts in the year 1876-77 was £ T. 246,348. The estimate has been taken at £ T. 220,000, divided as follows:—

Telegraphs, £ T. 157,000.
Post, £ T. 63,000.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The receipts classed as miscellaneous are of a very uncertain character. They include the proceeds of unclaimed property, fines on stray cattle, sale of Government publications, interest on tithe instalments in arrear, the apparent profit arising from the difference in the rates at which silver coins are received in the transactions of the public Treasuries, &c.

The receipts in the year 1877-78 amounted to £ T. 235,026. Of this sum, £ T. 75,000, consisting of the produce and rent of Government estates, has been placed under the head of Crown lands. The remaining miscellaneous receipts have been estimated at £ T. 160,000.

The estimate which has now been framed after an examination in detail of the accounts of the several branches of the revenue, gives, in my opinion, a fair view of the revenue prospects of the year about to commence, and a total revenue of from £ T. 14,250,000 to £ T. 14,500,000, may, in my judgment, be reasonably anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. T. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 286.

ESTIMATE of Revenue for the Year 1879-80.

Heads of Revenue—	£ T.	Heads of Revenue—	£ T.
Verghi	2,100,000	Forests	80,000
Military exemption	330,000	Mines	180,000
Tithe	4,500,000	Marine	95,000
Sheep tax	1,400,000	Commerce	2,000
Swine	7,000	Sanitary administration	51,350
Customs	1,600,000	Telegraph	157,000
Tobacco	1,000,000	Post	63,000
Spirits	180,000	Police	1,250
Salt	700,000	Miscellaneous receipts	160,000
Silk	35,000	Tribute of Egypt	765,000
Tapou	200,000	,, Samos	4,000
Stamps	140,000	,, Mount Athos	720
Contracts	2,500	Net revenue of Cyprus	116,000
Judicial receipts	88,000		
Miscellaneous duties	310,000	Total	14,362,820
Crown lands	85,000		

Constantinople, February 28, 1879.

No. 287.

Mr. Blake to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

Varna Railway Company,
Offices: 28, New Broad Street, London, E.C., March 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour at various times to come before your Lordship with representations on behalf of the Varna Railway Company and the Directors, in their constant anxiety to protect the rights of a large body of English investors, now request me, as their President, once more respectfully to approach you, with reference to an urgent question of great moment.

From the Parliamentary Reports, we have learnt that Her Majesty's Ministers are communicating with other Governments, upon the subject of the aid or countenance, which may properly be lent to the Porte, in its efforts to restore the Ottoman finances.

We have also had before us the published details of the scheme of M. de Tocqueville, which is represented as having received some degree of preliminary

sanction from the French Government, but which, we have had the pleasure of hearing, has not been yet approved by your Lordship.

The sum total of the arrears owing by Turkey to the Varna Railway Company, up to the time when the new Bulgarian Principality became responsible for the payment of our guaranteed income (140,000*l.* annually), amounts to about 570,000*l.*, exclusive of accrued and accruing interest.

If I were not unwilling to trespass upon your Lordship's time, I could adduce considerations which would show that our claim may be held to rest on a surer basis of right even than that of the creditors of the General Debt; but I may at least mention that such was the view of the Turkish Government, for in July 1876, long after they had ceased to pay the interest upon their loans, they formally renewed their engagements to us in the person of our colleague, and special representative, the Honourable Robert W. Grosvenor, formerly Member for Westminster, to whom they explicitly promised that the arrears then due should be paid in a series of equal monthly instalments.

I need hardly here recall the incidents of last year when our rights, having received a general recognition, as regards the future, in the Treaty of San Stefano, were pointedly confirmed at Berlin; we gratefully acknowledged and well remember, that owing to the valued advocacy of your Lordship and Lord Beaconsfield, the reference to our Company in the definitive Treaty is made in words of greater distinctness and particularization. The earlier instrument had kept silence upon the subject of the arrears due to us; the later and final Treaty made special provision for a settlement of a retrospective character.

It was, therefore, my Lord, with no little surprise that we observed that M. de Tocqueville's scheme, adopted by the Porte, contains no word or allusion to the position of this Company as a creditor of the Empire, but, on the contrary, proposes to create new charges, to our detriment, upon the small remnant of unappropriated revenue.

Your Lordship, we are convinced, can only approve our resolution to protest against this and every other scheme—whether mooted at Constantinople, at Paris, or in London—which ignores the important interests committed to our care.

In case no satisfaction should otherwise be given to our admitted claims, we shall endeavour—with your Lordship's assent, as we believe, and under your powerful protection, as we venture to hope—to make good our right to have the sum due to us by Turkey included in some accepted mode in that portion of the Ottoman Debt which may be definitively charged upon the Principality or else secured upon its annual tribute. The justice and propriety of such an arrangement are obvious, inasmuch as, so far as we can learn, no other item in the whole sum of the Imperial Debt represents an investment of reproductive expenditure to the manifest benefit of the Bulgarian people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. WOLLASTON BLAKE.

No. 288.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 25, 1879.*

AFTER addressing to your Lordship my despatch No. 49 of the 20th instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Malet, informing me that Sir Henry Layard would pass by Syra on the 23rd instant, and I consequently went there on that day, and had a long conversation with his Excellency.

Sir Henry said he had been told by the Sultan at his last interview that nothing would induce the Ottoman Government to agree to the transfer of Janina to the Greek Kingdom, convinced as he was that without it it would be impossible to retain Albania.

I am convinced that Greece, on the other hand, will not consent willingly to accept any territorial arrangement which does not include that city.

I am afraid there is no chance whatever that the two parties will come to any direct arrangement on the frontier question. They base all the hopes on the intervention of the Great Powers in their favour, and especially on France, who brought the question of an increase of their territory before the Congress, and it is hoped that England, if less directly, may act in the same direction.

Surprise is often expressed by persons of influence here that Her Majesty's Government appear to act lukewarmly, if not discouragingly, in regard to the Greek aspirations, it being considered that Great Britain is equally interested with Greece in preventing the Slav advance southwards, which advance, unless the Greek element is strengthened, it will be impossible to withstand, Turkey alone being incompetent to check it.

I have said in answer to such observations that our Imperial interests involved in the upholding and preservation of the Turkish Empire no doubt prevented Her Majesty's Government from advocating the cause of Greece as actively as was desired here, but that they were certainly not unfriendly towards it within reasonable limits, and that nothing was to be gained by impatience and putting forward inordinate demands, which could not be complied with, and might prejudice the acquisition of what it is possible to attain.

Sir Henry Layard seemed apprehensive that, if the Greeks are disappointed in obtaining all they ask for, there is danger of a rupture with Turkey, and that an attempt will be made to take possession of the coveted territory by force of arms.

There are, however, at this moment no evidences of such a feeling being general here, all sensible Greeks being of opinion that this country, in its present circumstances, cannot cope singly with Turkey, though hopes are entertained of an alliance with some great Power, in which case the whole country would, I believe, enter enthusiastically on a war with the Porte in the hope of extending its frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 289.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 27, 1879.*

THE Greek and Turkish Commissioners are still awaiting the instructions which Moukhtar Pasha is expecting from Constantinople. The delay in the arrival of these instructions, however, and the hopelessness felt at any satisfactory understanding resulting from the meeting at Prevesa, has induced the Greek Government to desire to recall their delegates, and M. Delyanni is about to consult the Council of Ministers as to the propriety of sending instructions to the Greek Minister at Constantinople to ask Carathéodory Pasha to declare what the definitive intentions of the Porte are, as it is impossible to leave the Greek Commissioners for an indefinite period at Prevesa under the pretence of further instructions being expected, and which do not arrive. From what the King and M. Delyanni told me to-day, I expect that the course indicated above will be followed at once, the more so as the proposals which it is understood the Porte is about to make to Greece in regard to a new frontier are considered by every one here as entirely unacceptable, and it is thought it would be better to close the conference at once, and appeal to the Great Powers for their mediation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 290.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 24. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March 3, 1879.*

I HAD the honour to dispatch to your Lordship this morning the following telegram, which is the abstract and result of a confidential conversation between M. von Zwiedinek, the Austrian Delegate, and myself:—

"The German Delegate has requested instructions from Berlin regarding the admission of the Russian Consul-General into the Consular Commission, but has as yet received no reply. This reticence renders the united action of the other Delegates impossible, and is very inconvenient at the present crisis, when strictly united action would be desirable.

"The Austrian Delegate has begged me to report that his refusal to sign the

Protocol was grounded on mere matters of form, and that he fully agrees in substance with me as to the signature of that document."

In brief illustration of the above, I have the honour to add:—

It is now almost a month since the German Delegate informed us that he must reserve his opinion as to whether M. Davidoff, the Russian Consul-General, was to be considered a Delegate *ad hoc* or not, and that he would apply for instructions on this point to his Government. These instructions have, it appears, not yet been received, and till the solution of this question, already solved in a negative sense for all the other Delegates as for myself, collective official action is necessarily suspended. On the other hand, the high state of popular excitement and the approach of the term fixed by Treaty for the Provisional Government render it highly desirable that the Delegates *ad hoc* should be in full possession not only of their individual but of their collective powers. Hence I have ventured respectfully to bring the matter under your Lordship's notice, M. von Zwiedinek having also assured me that he intended a similar representation at Vienna.

Regarding the Protocol of the Assembly of "notables," opened on the 22nd ultimo, M. von Zwiedinek earnestly assured me that no dissent had been intended on his part from myself and the other Delegates as to the propriety of signing the document or the nature of the document itself, his own abstension having been solely caused by what he considered the informality of the manner in which it had been submitted to us, and the absence of a French translation, and he begged me to report accordingly.

I ought to add that in conversation with the Imperial Russian Commissioner I had already called his Excellency's attention to these very informalities, and had received verbal excuse and apology.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 291.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 10, 1879.*

RESOLUTION approving change in Article 7 of Constitution passed in the Chamber yesterday by 71 against 19. An amendment for inserting a preamble opposed by Government was previously rejected by same majority against 33. Senate discussing the same resolution to-day.

No. 292.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Minister for War is satisfied with the progress of the evacuation, which is being seriously executed. I have still no news on the subject from the Consul at Adrianople.

No. 293.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs expects that Sultan's Iradé regarding instructions to Moukhtar Pasha at Prevesa will be issued immediately.

His Excellency tells me that the delay arises from want of clearness in the last Iradé, which consented to a third line, but did not specify which third line, more than one third line having been submitted to His Majesty. The Iradé was, therefore, returned to His Majesty, and another requested.

No. 294.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he is quite of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to its being undesirable to name an European Governor to Eastern Roumelia, but the Porte has to face probability of Rustem Pasha refusing to go. It had occurred to his Excellency in this event a sort of compromise might be found in the nomination of a member of one of the Hospodarial families of Roumania, as, for instance, Bibesco. He had not as yet spoken of the idea to any one but me.

(Sent to Wolff.)

No. 295.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

WITH regard to possible refusal of Rustem Pasha to go to Eastern Roumelia, mentioned by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it would be well to provide in time for no objection being raised by France to his return to Lebanon.

My conversations with Rustem Pasha show that this danger is uppermost in his mind, as though he felt that bribe of Roumelia would not be forced upon him.

No. 296.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

THE Porte received a second [note] yesterday from Russian Ambassador respecting Tocqueville Convention, in which his Excellency says he will forward answer of Porte to his Government, but that in the meantime he renews the protest contained in first note, as he considers reply unsatisfactory.

No. 297.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is anxious to know whether, in inviting Her Majesty's Government to recommend delimitation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, Russia asked that frontier laid down in the Treaty of Berlin might be changed.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 11, 1879, 8 A.M.*

PRAY inform Sultan that the fleet, having performed the duty of protecting his capital, has been directed to retire below the Straits. If at any time its presence shall be required, either in the Sea of Marmora or the Black Sea, in order to maintain the Treaty of Berlin, express a hope that the Sultan will not hesitate to summon it again, and assure him that he may always confidently count upon the Queen's friendship and support.

No. 299.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 8·15 A.M.

AT the same time as you deliver the message in my preceding telegram to the Sultan impress upon him in very earnest terms the necessity for being prepared with a sufficient force to occupy Eastern Roumelia in May in case of disturbances. Intimate to him as plainly as you properly can that the fault of the delay lies with Osman.

No. 300.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 11, 1879.

THE Minister of War refuses to carry out the orders of the Grand Vizier concerning the gendarmerie. He has sent 150 men, selected from Redifs, with officers, to Adrianople. The Commission appointed by the Grand Vizier for the organization of gendarmerie have protested and thrown responsibility on Minister of War.

It is feared that Grand Vizier will be upset if the Tocqueville Convention fails and Commissioners are not warned. This explains resistance of Ghazi Osman, who aspires to post with the assistance of Said Pasha. He is said to be Russian in his sympathies, and utterly incapable as an administrator.

No. 301.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 179. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 11, 1879.

I LEARN that secret negotiations are on foot for the cession of Crete to France. The matter was submitted by the Grand Vizier to the Council of Ministers last week, the Ministers taking the oath of secrecy. Said and Osman are opposed to it. The desperation caused by financial gravity has led to scheme, which, however, may not be abandoned even if De Tocqueville Convention succeeds.

Mr. Sandison brings me this on authority which I feel bound to credit. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question from me as to what the Porte would do if the De Tocqueville Convention fell through, answered sharply that Porte, having done its best and failed, must take its own measures.

The tone of his reply, unusual with him, made me at the time suspicious that it conveyed a threat.

No. 302.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 11, 1879.

VICE-CONSUL ODONI writes to me, under date of 8th instant, from Gallipoli, that supply contractors have refused to furnish any more provisions for the army there unless they are paid. Since Thursday the troops have in consequence had no meat.

I send this as another sign of general financial collapse.

No. 303.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 11, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Consul-General at Tirnova has been informed that M. Davidoff can only attend Commission on invitation, for the purpose of imparting information, and

that he has no right to vote. Russian Ambassador has told Count Andrassy that Davidoff has been instructed not to attend the sittings, but that his Government do not accept the view of England and Austria as to his exclusion.

No. 304.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 5·20 P.M.

GENERAL HAMLEY has been appointed by Her Majesty's Government Boundary Commissioner for Bulgaria under the Treaty of Berlin, in place of Colonel Home, deceased. He is in readiness to start and to begin operations whenever the other Powers signify their intention of directing the Commissioner to return.

No. 305.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 6·23 P.M.

PLEASE send me text of the Resolution which has passed for changing Article 7 of the Constitution.

No. 306.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 5·15 P.M.

AS to Tocqueville Convention, do the Porte hold that if the money is not paid by the 14th the Convention becomes void?

No. 307.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 177.

No such proposition has been made to us in terms, although it is hinted at in Prince Gortchacow's second circular.

No. 308.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 6·35 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 173, the proper precaution would be not to allow Rustem to resign the Lebanon until his nomination for Eastern Roumelia has been confirmed.

No. 309.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 172 Roumanian Governor would be dangerous, as it would give opportunity for repetition of the Couza trick.

No. 310.

Palgrave.
The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. ~~Malet~~.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 6·55 P.M.

I HAVE to instruct you to support objections made by Turkish Delegate to first, second, and sixteenth articles in the Bulgarian Constitution.

No. 311.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879, 7·5 P.M.

RENEWED complaints have reached me from Vienna of the partiality you exhibit towards the Russians.

No. 312.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 314.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

AS Her Majesty's Government consider that the British fleet has now performed the duty of protecting the Turkish capital, and that no further necessity exists for the presence of Her Majesty's ships in the vicinity of Constantinople, I have this day instructed you by telegraph to inform the Sultan that the squadron has been ordered to withdraw below the Straits of the Dardanelles. I at the same time directed you to express to the Sultan the hope of Her Majesty's Government that he will not hesitate to summon it again in the event of its presence being required in the Sea of Marmora or in the Black Sea in order to secure the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and to assure His Majesty that he may always confidently rely upon the friendship and support of Her Majesty the Queen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 316.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

IN a telegram which I have this day addressed to you I have instructed you, whilst communicating to the Sultan the intelligence that the British fleet has been ordered to withdraw below the Straits of the Dardanelles, to impress upon His Majesty in the most earnest terms the necessity of being prepared with a sufficient force to occupy Eastern Roumelia next May in the event of disturbances occurring in the province on its evacuation by the Russian troops. I have at the same time directed you to point out to the Sultan, in as plain language as you can properly hold, that the fault of any delays that may occur in the organization of such a force will rest entirely with Osman Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 319.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to the inquiry which has been addressed to you by Carathéodory Pasha, I have to state to you that Russia has not actually proposed to Her Majesty's Government that the frontier-line between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia as laid down

in the Treaty of Berlin should be changed, although the idea is hinted at in Prince Gortchacow's second Circular of the 9th February.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 315.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 320.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

I UNDERSTAND from your telegrams Nos. 172 and 173 of yesterday that Carathéodory Pasha thinks it not improbable that Rustem Pasha may refuse to accept the nomination of Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and that in that eventuality the Porte desires to provide against any objection being raised by France to his return to the Lebanon.

I am of opinion that Rustem Pasha should not be permitted to resign the appointment in the Lebanon, which he still holds, until his nomination for Eastern Roumelia has been confirmed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 316.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 323.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

I HAVE had under my consideration the suggestion made to you by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that in order to compromise the difficulty raised to the appointment of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, one of the members of the Hospodarial families of Roumania, for instance, Prince Bibesco, should be nominated.

In reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government, as you are aware, concur with the Porte in thinking it undesirable that an European should be nominated as Governor-General in Eastern Roumelia; they consider that it would be a dangerous expedient to select a Roumanian, as it would afford an opportunity to repeat the stratagem which united Moldavia and Wallachia under Prince Couza.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 45.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40 of the 1st instant, I regret to have to state to you that the partiality which it is said you exhibit towards the Russians has formed the subject of renewed complaints which have reached me from Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 318.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1879.

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to the Turkish Representative at Tirnova by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to oppose the 1st and 2nd Articles of the Russian Programme of the Organic Law for the Government and Constitution of the Principality of Bulgaria on the ground that the territorial limits of the Principality

have been fixed by the Treaty of Berlin, and cannot therefore be rectified without the assent of the Contracting Powers.

The Porte further proposes to recognize the faculty conferred under the 16th Article, which empowers the Prince, through the National Assembly, to enter into Agreements or Conventions with foreign Governments on the condition that a provision is added that the approval of the Suzerain Power must be previously obtained.

I have to instruct you to support the objections which will be raised by the Turkish Delegate to the 1st, 2nd, and 16th Articles of the aforesaid Constitution in the form in which they have been drawn up for the consideration of the Chamber of Notables.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 319.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, February 8, 1879.*

IN consequence of an intimation received by me from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that it was his wish that in future my political despatches should be addressed to his Excellency, and copies, when possible, sent to your Lordship, I have now the honour to forward herewith copies of my despatches Nos. 13 and 14 to the address of Her Majesty's Ambassador.

My despatch No. 10 of the 2nd February to the address of Sir A. H. Layard is the connecting link between my despatch No. 5 of the 26th January, the last political despatch I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship, and the despatches Nos. 13 and 14, copies of which are now submitted.

I was unable to prepare for your Lordship, in time for the mail, a copy of my despatch No. 10 to Her Majesty's Ambassador, but I doubt not that his Excellency will have sent a copy of any portion that he may consider necessary to be submitted to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 319.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Diarbekir, February 6, 1879.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 1st February, I have the honour to report that there is no news of importance from the east of the province, except that Izzet Pasha, and the officers who are associated with him, appear (contrary to general expectation, as reported by me some time back) to be acting with judgment and fairness, and the Christian representatives here, as far as they are informed on the subject, appear to be satisfied with the manner in which the investigations are now being carried on. Hamid Agha, the Kurdish Chief who was said to be mainly responsible for the outrages at Deh, is still in prison, and much of his ill-gotten wealth has already been restored to the legitimate possessors.

It is astonishing, however, how little is known here, even amongst those most interested, as to the progress made in the inquiry now going on at Sert. As a general rule in this country no news means good news, as it is astonishing how quickly bad news travels and gets magnified.

The inhabitants of Diarbekir itself have been somewhat unquiet since the departure of the Wali, and several somewhat serious cases of assault and robbery have occurred.

An Armenian was found dead in the streets two evenings ago, and it was at once reported that he had been murdered; considerable excitement ensued as the incident followed close on a reported assault, in which it was said a soldier had stabbed a Chaldean in two places with his bayonet. I have, however, been informed, by the Armenian Bishop and others, that a medical examination brought to light no marks of violence whatever on the dead man's body; that the deceased was a very bad character

and a heavy drinker, and it is supposed that he died of an attack of apoplexy. The story of the other assault has now been reduced to two holes in the man's coat, and the Chaldean Bishop told me that he was not convinced of the truth of the man's story as to how the holes were formed.

However, there have been some assaults (generally by soldiers on Christians) and burglaries, and only last night the Protestant Church was entered and a valuable carpet and some candlesticks stolen.

It is well known that there is an organized band of burglars in the town, consisting of nearly equal numbers of Mahomedans and Christians; the latter are said to be employed to commit the actual robbery, while their comrades, often Mussulman zaptiehs, stand outside and keep guard.

The police officials and the members of the Local Court of Justice, the "Temij-i-hukuk," are believed to be, one and all, sharers in the spoil, and a conviction rarely or never occurs.

This state of things would appear to an outsider to be almost past belief; but I firmly believe it to be true.

Two battalions of the Bagdad Corps d'Armée, composed of Arab soldiers, who have been in garrison since my arrival here, left this day for Bagdad, having been relieved by two battalions of the 4th Army Corps from Baibart. The Arab soldiers have, during the past ten days, been giving a great deal of trouble, owing to an entire absence of all discipline; the Defterdar telegraphed a few days ago to the Wali begging him to send here a competent military Kaimakam to keep them in order. As they are now happily gone, I hope we shall be quieter. Five soldiers entered a house two days ago; the owner began shrieking, and the marauders, after dealing him some blows, robbed him of his fez and then departed. I was told the other day of a boy who has three times been robbed of his new fez by soldiers when on his way to school, and his father now sends him to school without. The soldiers clearly think that if the Government won't clothe them they must help themselves; they began with fezes, but who knows what they will end with?

I had a visit yesterday from the Armenian Bishop Philippos, who showed me an autograph letter from the Patriarch at Constantinople, informing him that, in an interview the Patriarch had had with your Excellency, he had been recommended to write to the Bishop of Diarbekir to advise him to consult me in all matters connected with the general welfare of the community, and to endeavour to work, as much as possible, in concert with me. I endeavoured to improve the occasion, after the necessary formalities, by urging on his Reverence the necessity of our all working together, pointing out that it was only by Armenians, Protestants, Chaldeans, and other Churches working in unison with the local authorities, and as far as possible with the Mahomedans, that good results could be arrived at. His Reverence, as your Excellency is aware from my earlier despatches, is very much in need of a little advice on that subject, as he is constantly getting into difficulties, mostly of his own making, not only with the local authorities and with the heads of other Churches, but also with his own Council, and the most influential Armenian notables here. He was anxious to dispatch immediately a telegram to Constantinople about the present insecurity in the streets, but on my asking him whether he had as yet brought the matter to the notice of the Defterdar (the Deputy-Governor), and on his replying in the negative, I recommended him to try and get matters mended by a prior application to the proper local authority.

The Bishop took my advice in good part, and we separated on the best of terms. I have heard to-day that subsequent to our interview he called a meeting of the heads of Churches, at which it was decided that the Chaldean Bishop was to address the Defterdar on the subject on behalf of the other Heads. I am myself to see the Defterdar and the Cadi to-morrow on the same subject.

Your Excellency is probably aware that the monthly pay of a zaptieh, in addition to a bread ration, is 70 piastres a month, paid, if at all, in caimé—*i.e.*, at present rates, about 3*s.* a month. Even assuming them to be regularly paid, which they are not, how is it possible for a man to exist and provide for his family on this miserable pittance? Your Excellency would confer a real and immediate benefit to the country in causing orders to be sent to all the vilayets that henceforth the police force should be paid regularly, and in metallic currency; and if any spare clothing exists in store it should be at once issued, to replace the rags and tatters in which the men now wander about. The present state of things cannot go on much longer; and although I have had no confirmation of the report from Mardin[a], that the police there had

[a] *Vide* my despatch No. 10.

dispersed to their homes, I do not see how the force can be kept together much longer if no improvement is made in their condition. As it is, they are generally believed, in order to obtain a living, to get their share of almost every robbery that occurs, if, indeed, they are not in many instances the actual criminals.

Since my despatch was commenced I have learned from a merchant recently arrived from Sert that two entire companies of one of the Bagdad regiments, including two officers, are in prison on charges connected with the outrages at Deh. The state of that unfortunate village is worse than I imagined, and my informant told me that as late as twelve days ago the inhabitants were nearly all dispersed in the neighbouring mountains, unwilling to return to their homes, which are reported to be in ruins.

A great many of the Sert and Bohtan Beys and Aghas are in confinement, and perfect tranquillity now exists in the districts; but whether that state of things will continue after the departure of Izzet Pasha and his soldiers it is difficult to say.

Meanwhile, as long as troops are being moved about the country, the populations along their line of march will continue to suffer. A Petition, translation of which I annex, gives a fair idea of what probably occurs at nearly every halting place.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 319.

Petition.

(Traduction.)
(Extrait.)

Monseigneur,

LES Soussignés viennent par la présente supplique implorer l'intervention de votre Eminence pour redresser les torts et injustices qu'on nous a prodigués depuis une année, surtout en ce moment, grâce à l'impertinence insolente de tout officier en fonction ou sans fonction qui sont de passage par notre village. Il y a longtemps que nous les avons porté à votre connaissance, que nous avons cru inutile d'énumérer de peur d'ennui.

Nous sommes à bout de patience des exactions de ces gardiens de l'ordre et de la sécurité publiques: à peine que nous étions débarrassés de la présence lors du passage de la famille de Bederhan Bey, dont les officiers d'escorte nous ont bel et bien mis, comme vous le savez, en contribution par la double nourriture gratuite de leurs hommes et de leurs chevaux, deux d'entre nous ont été sérieusement battus, et entraînés hors du village pour être amenés en ville; notre curé Jacques dépêché pour leur délivrance, par la peur d'être battu, à son tour s'en est résigné parce qu'il entendait les officiers pleins de menaces avancer vers lui. Mais grâce aux cris pleurnichours de nos épouses, nos deux pauvres compatriotes ont été relâchés. De pareils faits sont journaliers. Lundi dernier, quatre soldats de troupe régulière nous ont pris de force un mulet qu'ils ont conduit jusqu'au village Sadik: sur leur avis d'aller chercher la bête, nous sommes allés reprendre le pauvre animal exténué de fatigue et mourant d'inanition.

Monseigneur, nous croyons inutile de vous ennuyer: nous vous supplions de faire mettre un terme à ces injustices pour que nous puissions travailler tranquillement dans nos champs pour payer nos impôts à l'Etat pour le bonheur de l'Empire.

Dans cet espoir, Monseigneur, nous demeurons, de votre Eminence, &c.

Le 6 Février, 1879.

De par les habitants de Sakou-Keui,
Le Maire,
(Signé) JACQUE.

No. 320.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 10 Mars*, 1879.

LE projet de Statut Organique de la Bulgarie présenté à l'Assemblée de Tirnova par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie contient des dispositions qui sont en contradiction

flagrante avec la lettre et l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, et qui portent atteinte aux droits de suzeraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Ainsi l'Article I porte que "le territoire de la Bulgarie Principauté ne pourra être agrandi ou diminué sans l'assentiment de la Grande Assemblée Nationale." Or, les limites de la Principauté de la Bulgarie, ayant été fixées par le Traité de Berlin, ne peuvent être étendues ni diminuées par un acte du Gouvernement Bulgare. Il est donc impossible de laisser subsister une disposition qui, si elle ne faisait l'objet d'aucune réclamation, autoriserait la Principauté Bulgare à faire des acquisitions ou des cessions de territoire. Les mêmes observations s'appliquent aux dispositions de l'Article II, d'après lequel une rectification de frontière pourra s'effectuer avec l'autorisation de l'Assemblée Nationale ordinaire. En effet, une fois la délimitation définitive des frontières accomplie suivant les prescriptions du Traité de Berlin, il n'y peut rien être changé. D'après l'Article III, "la Principauté de Bulgarie est un Gouvernement Constitutionnel se trouvant dans des rapports de vassalité envers la Sublime Porte." Il ne peut être permis d'altérer dans le Statut Organique la formule consacrée par l'Article I du Traité de Berlin. Les mots "se trouvant dans des rapports de vassalité envers la Sublime Porte" doivent être remplacés par ceux-ci, "sous la suzeraineté de la Sublime Porte." L'Article XXII porte, "que la dignité princière est héréditaire dans la descendance du premier Prince élu," et d'après plusieurs Articles la Principauté est considérée comme un Gouvernement héréditaire. Les dispositions contenues dans ces Articles doivent disparaître entièrement comme étant en opposition formelle avec l'Article III du Traité de Berlin, qui fixe les modes d'élection du Prince et prescrit qu'en cas de vacance de la dignité Princière, l'élection du nouveau Prince se fasse dans les mêmes conditions et dans les mêmes termes; cela a pour but et pour effet d'exclure toute idée d'hérédité. Telles sont les observations que nous suggère une première lecture du Statut Organique de la Bulgarie, et j'ai eu soin de les communiquer à notre Commissaire pour qu'il les fasse valoir tant auprès du Prince Dondoukoff qu'auprès des Délégués des Puissances. Je vous prie de vous énoncer, de votre côté, dans le même sens auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de l'engager à transmettre à son Délégué des instructions en conséquence, et de nous faire savoir le résultat de votre démarche.

No. 321.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 12.)

Sir, *Admiralty, March 12*, 1879.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following copy of a telegram received from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby this day:—

"Squadron sails for Gallipoli this evening (12th March). Wait orders there."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 322.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 11*, 1879.

THE Sultan has asked the Admiral and principal officers of the fleet to dinner, without naming the day. I think it very advisable on public grounds that the invitation should be accepted. His Majesty proposes to send his yacht to bring them up and take them back.

No. 323.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 11*, 1879.

YOUR telegrams of 8th and 9th arrived together this morning.

As M. Gueshoff left on Sunday, I followed the example of other Commissioners in

giving him a letter. It was very guarded, and in no respect compromises you even to answer him. I have sent a copy of it by messenger. Do you wish me to communicate to the Exarch the contents of your telegram?

I am very glad of your answer to my telegram No. 84 of the 5th instant. M. de Torcy did not tell me the names of the Russians who had spoken of war. Things have much changed since arrival of General Dickson, who is pleased with discussion as far as it has gone.

The French have received some very strong rebukes from Paris. Their language is quite changed and their attitude is subdued.

I am of opinion that the Treaty of Berlin should in no respect be modified, but it might be advisable for the Porte to take the initiative line pointed out in my telegram No. 89. General Dickson is of the same opinion from a military point of view. If the Porte took this line it would perhaps be advisable to have it made public before the arrival of the deputation.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Palgrave to inform Gueshoff, who is at Tirnova, the contents of your telegram of the 9th instant.

Walpole left yesterday to negotiate with Turks at Raslog for repatriation of some Bulgarian Protestant refugees we have supported during the winter. Mr. Palgrave, to whom I telegraphed, expressed himself pleased.

No. 324.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE just seen a gentleman in whom I have confidence, who yesterday saw Reouf Pasha. He says that the Pasha is entirely under the influence of Russia; that he is decidedly opposed to Balkan garrisons as being useless, except on a great scale, and difficult to victual. He is also in favour of an European Governor-General for the province. He thinks that the province is practically lost to the Porte; that the introduction of Turkish troops [?] would bring on an insurrection, which would entail same results in Macedonia and elsewhere, and he is daily expecting one himself at Adrianople.

The emigration from that province does not exceed 30,000.

No. 325.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1879, 8 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 179, I must leave it to your judgment to decide whether the report as to Crete deserves credence. If you think so, take opportunity, either directly or by a sure channel, to let Grand Vizier understand that such a proceeding would entirely change the policy of England towards Turkey, and that England would consider herself entitled to take compensation.

No. 326.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 12, 1879.*

AS I could not go to Sultan off-hand, and the news of fleet's withdrawal was in yesterday afternoon's papers, I sent Mr. Sandison to the palace at once, and wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Sandison saw Sultan, who expressed great gratitude for Her Majesty's message, and said, "I feel that England is my only friend." I will deliver message concerning Osman Pasha at the dinner or evening official reception.

No. 327.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 183.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 12, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Sir H. Wolff:—

"Wolff's plan concerning Balkan question in his telegram of the 8th instant is in accordance with views of General Baker Pasha mentioned in my telegram No. 165, and would chime in with the Sultan's recorded in my telegram No. 163. Sultan spoke yesterday to Mr. Sandison in high terms of Baker, who dined with His Majesty on Sunday and on Tuesday."

No. 328.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, March 12, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram of the 8th. Many thanks for instructions about Macedonia, to which I will strictly conform.

The Assembly here has been adjourned for a week, nominally to prepare answer to the Prince's opening Address: really, it is thought, to obstruct business.

I leave for Bucharest on the 13th, and intend to return here in about eight days, visiting Rustchuk by the way.

No. 329.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 12, 1879.*

TRANSLATION of Resolution which passed Chamber of Deputies, as reported in my telegram No. 17, was as follows:—

"Considering Article 129 of Constitution, the Chamber making use of the powers vested in it, declares that it is requisite to subject to a revision the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution. Exactly similar Resolution read in Senate, still being discussed, will be voted probably to-day.

No. 330.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12, 6 P.M.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 12, 1879, 4 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes for a written Memorandum of the substance of your despatch No. 275 about Greek frontier.

Shall I give one?

No. 331.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1879.*

GERMAN Government has resolved on recognizing Servia, on ground that sufficient has been done to guarantee the execution of religious-liberty clause of Treaty. I have informed German Ambassador that England will deal with Roumania precisely on same principles as are applied to Servia, as soon as Roumania has placed herself in the same position as Servia; but Her Majesty's Government think that, as a matter of public policy, these recognitions should not be delayed by the Western

Powers longer than is absolutely necessary for execution of Treaty; and they propose at once to recognize the independence of Servia.

No. 332.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12, 7 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1879, 3 A.M.*

I SAW the Emperor to-day. The interview lasted three-quarters of an hour. His manner was gracious but grave.

He began by observing that good-will expressed by British Government did not tally with their acts, and what he now wanted were some tangible proofs of their friendly disposition. On the contrary, everything they had hitherto done indicated distrust and ill-will. Their own policy, especially at the Congress of Berlin, had been inimical to Russia, and though His Majesty's Plenipotentiaries had gone to the utmost length in concessions, and had agreed to arrangements—by which he specially meant the division of Bulgaria—which were impossible of execution, Her Majesty's Government seemed still intent on thwarting him. His own conduct had not justified such ill-will. He had gone to war for the sake of the Christian populations, and not from ambition. He had acquired no territory, and he had stopped short of Constantinople, a city which Russia indeed could never desire to possess, but which the exigencies of war might perhaps have made it advisable for him to occupy. Nevertheless, as the Treaty had been agreed to it would be necessary to carry it into effect, and His Majesty gave me his personal assurance that he was ready to do so both as regarded the stipulated withdrawal of his troops and the provisions affecting Roumelia. Here I interrupted, saying that such a personal assurance would be very satisfactory to my Government, and that it was obvious that immediately His Majesty undertook to facilitate the inauguration of the new régime in Eastern Roumelia, as constituted by Treaty, all cause for disagreement between us and him must necessarily disappear, as the British Government themselves would be as anxious as His Majesty to require the Porte faithfully to respect the privileges secured to the inhabitants of the new province. The Emperor interposed rather quickly, and gave me to understand that foregoing pledge did not exclude possibility of an onslaught of the Turks upon the Christians, necessitating the return of his armies, thus superinducing consequences which compromise stability of peace.

In order to prevent such eventualities it would be the interest of both Governments to discover a common ground of agreement by which these dangers might be averted. He then referred to my conversation with Prince Gortchacow, reported in my telegram No. 3, and told me that the Prince had accurately represented his views. He then particularly insisted upon the limitation of the Turkish garrison in the Balkan, and its relegation to specified spots; and he contended that it could not be introduced at all events until after the delimitation of the frontier. On this I suggested the advisability of hastening the latter operation by introducing the majority principle. To this His Majesty returned an absolute negative. I then urged as forcibly as I could the appointment of Rustem Pasha. He asserted in reply that Rustem Pasha had given dissatisfaction in the Lebanon, and Russia must object to him.

He would have preferred a member of the Orthodox Church, and he hinted at a Swiss Protestant.

Reverting to Asia he touched on peculiar crisis during which his Mission had gone to Cabul. Now he hoped our former amicable understanding in regard to line of demarcation might be re-established.

Returning to Europe he said that under the Treaty the welfare of other Christian populations within the Sultan's dominions had been provided for, and he wished me to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the unsatisfactory position in Macedonia. He also spoke in a very bitter manner of publication of the Rhodope Blue Book. At the conclusion of the interview I informed him in terms permitted by your Lordship of the withdrawal of the fleet from the Straits, an announcement which made an agreeable impression upon him.

No. 333.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 156.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 12, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Government, in consideration of the fact that the evacuation of Southern Roumelia is proceeding rapidly, and that the reports received give ground for believing that it will be completed in the course of next week, have now consented to withdraw the British fleet from the position which it has been occupying in the waters of Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 334.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 12, 1879.*

I INCLOSE herewith, for convenience of reference, copies of papers which already exist in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy as to the wording of the third paragraph of Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, defining the frontier-line of Turkey in Asia.*

The Article of the Treaty, as signed and ratified, states that, "D'un point à l'ouest du village de Karaourgan la frontière se dirige sur Medgingert." Your Excellency will perceive, however, from the statement made in Lieutenant-General Sir L. Simmons' letter of the 19th July last, that the draft of the Article as settled between Count Schouvaloff, Mehemet Ali Pasha, and myself, was worded, "D'un point à l'ouest *près* du village de Karaourgan, &c." I may add that my recollection of the circumstances corresponds exactly with that of Sir L. Simmons. Lord Odo Russell has also confirmed the statement as to the wording of the Article, and Count Schouvaloff has admitted to M. de Radowitz that he recollected the insertion of the word "près" in the place alluded to, and added that no possible objection could be raised by Russia to its restoration in the text.

It is possible that the absence of the word may not lead to any important discussion or difference of opinion in the eventual settlement of the frontier-line, but I think it desirable that your Excellency should be in possession of the facts, and I leave it to your judgment whether you should endeavour to obtain from the Russian Government a more formal acknowledgment of the intention of the Article than is conveyed by Count Schouvaloff's verbal acknowledgment to M. de Radowitz, or whether you should receive any diplomatic notice of the incident until some circumstance has occurred to bring the subject under discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 335.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 12, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Government have always held themselves to be under engagement to withdraw the fleet from the position which it has occupied since the advance of the Russian forces on Constantinople, as soon as the evacuation of Southern Roumelia should be completed. The reports which have been received giving every ground for the belief that in the course of next week the evacuation of that province will be effected, they have consented, in deference to the strongly expressed wishes of the Emperor of Russia, to withdraw at once, and Lord Dufferin has been authorized to inform the Russian Government that the fleet will retire without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* To Lord O. Russell, No. 365A, July 15, 1878; Sir L. Simmons, July 19, 1878; Lord O. Russell, No. 448, July 29, 1878; Mr. Dering, No. 471, August 7, 1878.

No. 336.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1879.

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency in your conversation with Prince Bismarck, reported in your despatch No. 138, marked "Secret," of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 337.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 327. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1879.

THE information which has reached you of secret negotiations now going on for the cession of the Island of Crete by the Porte to France has received my serious attention.

Whether this rumour is worthy of credence you must be best able to decide.

Should you have reason to believe that it is well founded, I should wish you to take an opportunity, either directly or by a sure channel, to let it be understood by the Grand Vizier that such a transaction would entirely change the policy of this country with regard to Turkey, and that England would consider herself entitled to take compensation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 338.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 326.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1879.

I AM informed that the German Government have determined on recognizing the independence of Servia, on the ground that sufficient has been done to guarantee the execution of those clauses of the Berlin Treaty which refer to religious liberty in that Principality.

I have informed the German Ambassador that England reserves to herself to deal with Roumelia on the same principles as those which are applied to Servia, as soon as Roumania has placed herself in the same position as that in which Servia now stands.

Her Majesty's Government are however of opinion that, as a matter of public policy, these recognitions should not be delayed by the Western Powers longer than is absolutely necessary for the execution of the Treaty, and that they therefore propose at once to recognize the independence of Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 339.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Gennadius.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two telegrams addressed to you by his Excellency M. Delyanni, which you have been good enough to communicate to me with your notes of the 6th and 7th instant relative to the existing relations between Greece and Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 340.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that of the Armenians who passed on Russian territory during the last war, all those who return to Turkey, whether for the purpose of disposing of their property and go back to Russia, or with the intention to remain permanently in Anatolia, are provided with Russian passports and considered as subjects by the Consul-General of that nation.

This circumstance, giving rise to continual discussions between the Russian and the Turkish authorities at Erzeroum—the latter of whom refuse to acknowledge the right of the individuals in question to Russian protection—and no solution of the question being possible on the spot, the Acting Governor-General at Erzeroum has telegraphed on the 20th instant to Constantinople for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 341.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February* 25, 1879.

I AM informed by Lazes just arrived from Batoum of an incident which occurred last week at Bortchka, a village situated on the left bank of the Tsoorook River, nearly half-way between Artwin and the sea-shore.

A guard of some thirty Russian soldiers had been stationed since some time in that village, to the great inconvenience of its inhabitants, who had often begged that this guard should be stationed on the opposite bank of the river.

On the Turks having occupied Morghool, as reported in my despatch No. 14 of the 4th instant, and the Bortchkalis having manifested the hope of a similar treatment for themselves, the Russians reinforced the small garrison at Bortchka, commenced the construction of wooden barracks capable of accommodating a larger force, and pushed their outposts in the direction of Takvara and Itchkalé, two other villages respectively situated at one and two hours' distance from the former, and westward.

The inhabitants of Bortchka, seeing that the Russians intended to take permanent possession of their village, asked permission to emigrate, which, it is said, was refused to them.

Thereupon a party of about 150 or 200 unarmed Lazes from the villages of Takvara and Itchkalé were proceeding to Bortchka to assist their countrymen to emigrate, when they met, near the latter village, a company of Russian troops, whom they attacked with stones and clubs. A few of the soldiers having been wounded, the Russian officer in command ordered his men to use their arms, killing one and wounding five or six of the assailants.

Both parties having withdrawn to their respective quarters, the Russians reinforced immediately, by two battalions and two mountain guns, their garrison at Bortchka.

Subsequently, at the request of the elders of Itchkalé, the inhabitants of Bortchka, consisting of about eighty families, were allowed to emigrate, but without being permitted, it is stated, to take with them the slightest article of movable property.

Yussuf Pasha, having been informed of the occurrence by his subordinates at Rizeh and Hoppa, telegraphed to General Komaroff at Batoum, who stated that no impediment was ever placed in the way of the Lazes willing to emigrate. He added that he would send here, by first opportunity, an officer to confer with the Pasha on the subject, as well as on the question of the frontier, in order to avoid regrettable collisions, which last he attributes to Turkish emissaries.

The Lazes who furnished to me the above-mentioned details stated at the same time that the idea of comprising Bortchka within the new Russian frontier is due to a certain Ahmed Effendi, a native of Maradit, who is now Russian Governor of that district, but that this delimitation is not adapted to the natural configuration of the ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 342.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, February* 28, 1879.

ONE of the Lazes mentioned in my despatch No. 27 of this day has given me, in connection with the new Turco-Russian frontier, some topographical details, which I consider sufficiently interesting to communicate to your Lordship.

This Laz, who is the brother of the ex-Kaïmakam of Rizeh, and a man of some knowledge, was, it would seem, examined at the time at Constantinople by Server Pasha, on the topography of the Tsoorook.

It would seem that the idea which prevailed at the Porte was that, even by the Treaty of San Stefano, the frontier-line was to follow the Tsoorook River, but that as Gunieh Dagh was commanding Batoum, that mountain was only ceded to Russia on this side of the river, as well as a small portion of territory near Artwin, owing to its being inhabited by Armenians. The village of Bortchka, referred to in my last despatch, is situated at three hours' south of Gunieh Dagh.

According to my informant, whose statements seem correct, on reference to the map of the eastern portion of Turkish Armenia (September 1877), this mountain joins the Tsoorook River north of Dokvara, near a village, at eight hours' from the sea-shore, called Gadabghia, which would remain to Russia. From that point southward there are only valleys and rivers running from west to east, but no ranges of mountains extending to the south that can serve to mark the frontier.

At the junction of the River Iskeba (just north of Nandjvia, and at ten hours from Gadabghia), with the Tsoorook, the latter river deflecting to the east, it is from that point that the frontier should again extend on the left bank of the Tsoorook, and run north of Horda and south of Artwin.

Unless it is extended to the range of mountains situated very far to the west, there is no other natural frontier, but that of the Tsoorook, between Gadabghia and Nandjvia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 343.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, March* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant, stating that a telegram had been received from Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople reporting that the Sultan has invited the Admiral and principal officers of Her Majesty's fleet to dinner, without specifying the day, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, dated at Ismid, the 12th instant, on the same subject, and copy of telegram sent to the Vice-Admiral, directing him to accept the Sultan's invitation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 343.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, March* 12, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

ACCEPT Sultan's invitation to dinner, leaving squadron at Gallipoli.

Inclosure 2 in No. 343.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Ismid, March* 12, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegraphic communication received yesterday from Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, viz.:—

"Sultan invites you and the principal officers of the fleet to a farewell dinner. He asks for a list of officers who should be invited. His Majesty proposes to send one of his yachts to bring you up and take you back. He has not mentioned day. I should like to know from you what day would be most convenient? I only heard of your recall this afternoon. I venture to add that it is very advisable, on public grounds, that you should accept Sultan's invitation if possible."

I replied, my orders were to proceed with squadron without delay, but if he considered it necessary, I would ask your instructions.

Following reply just received from him, viz.:—

"I should be very glad if you would request instructions. There are many reasons which make it desirable that the public demonstration of the Sultan's good-will should take place."

What shall I do? I consider any delay in the refitment of these ships is objectionable. I await your reply at Ismid.

Inclosure 3 in No. 343.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, March* 12, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

SHIPS should move to Gallipoli if dinner is delayed beyond Thursday.

You can go with officers from Gallipoli in a despatch-vessel.

No. 344.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, March* 12, 1879.

AS I have received news which tends to confirm my telegram No. 179 regarding Crete I shall make a communication on the subject to the Grand Vizier to-morrow morning.

No. 345.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 12, 1879.

I AM authorized by Minister for Foreign Affairs to say that if the first instalment of the loan is not made on the 14th instant the de Tocqueville Convention is null and void.

No. 346.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 12, 1879.

MINISTERS were with the Sultan yesterday evening. I learn that His Majesty spoke in conciliatory terms regarding Greece, and authorized line to be offered extending nearly to the Peneus.

He was less facile with regard to the Austrian Government, but he instructed his Ministers to try to come to a settlement.

No. 347.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 12, 1879.*

THE report about Rhodes was mentioned in a conversation I had about an hour ago with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he stated to me in the most distinct terms that France had no intention to make any acquisition whatever in the Mediterranean; that all she required there was preponderating influence in Tunis, and that she had no desire to annex Tunis, and should not do so unless forced to it by interference from Italy.

On my return home I find Mr. Malet's telegram about the cession of Crete to France. Would it be unlike M. Fournier to set on foot such a scheme without telling his Government, in the hope of forcing their hands if he succeeded with the Porte?

No. 348.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 12, 1879.*

IF Fournier is intriguing with the Porte about Crete perhaps the best way to disconcert him would be to let the matter appear as soon as possible as news from Constantinople in the newspapers.

No. 349.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram announcing appointment of General Hamley, Italian Government is ready to desire their Commissioner to return.

No. 350.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 12, 1879.*

SENATE passed Resolution mentioned in telegrams by 41 votes against 6.

No. 351.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1879.*

MY impressions as to the disposition of this Government are as follows:—

I believe that Emperor and his Ministers are sincerely desirous of getting out of Balkan peninsula; that there is a real aversion to war; that they will endeavour at the last, though perhaps too late, to induce the Roumelians to accept situation, having in the meantime minimised to the utmost the authority of the Porte.

If any serious violences were committed by the Porte, it is not absolutely impossible that the Emperor would risk everything and return.

The Emperor cannot be brought to believe that his orders are so imperfectly obeyed.

Prince Gortchacow's mental powers and influence are both failing.

M. de Giers is the man the Emperor sees most constantly, but he occupies the position rather of a clerk than of a Secretary of State, the Emperor affecting to act as his own Foreign Minister.

I think we ought to do everything to make it easy for the Emperor to retreat. His personal susceptibilities greatly influence his policy.

It would have a very beneficial effect if I were instructed to assure Emperor that England would join zealously with Russia in compelling the Porte and the Governor-General to respect liberties secured to Roumelians.

Any observation I have made in this sense has always been eagerly taken up by the Minister I have spoken to, as well as by the Emperor. In a place where there is no Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, where no two Ministers hold exactly the same language, where political centre of gravity is always shifting, and where ultimate decision upon everything rests upon an autocrat, it is difficult for a new comer in the space of a week to acquire a trustworthy insight into the situation; but as you have asked for my impressions, I send them at once with this qualification.

No. 352.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 12, 1879.*

IT is most desirable that the reoccupation should take place without bloodshed This might entail consequences furnishing pretext for, or even necessitating, the interference of Russia, and perhaps Austria. I may be wrong; but is it not better to anticipate, and if possible prevent, such events? The Turkish army is in a bad state: Reouf Pasha has not more than 24,000 men; and Turkish Administrators are either corrupt or incapable. Without your means of knowing, I think renewal of disorder here would have a bad effect in Europe, and, rightly or wrongly, be most disastrous to Turkey.

As the time is getting short, I earnestly recommend that something should be done to calm agitation here.

Your telegram of the 10th just received. Neither Lord Donoughmore nor I have ever said a word that could authorize Count Schouvaloff's language in the remotest degree, but have almost quarrelled with the French by maintaining that Treaty must be carried out, as I think it should be. Certain paragraphs to the same effect in some English papers are equally unfounded. My anxiety has always been to maintain Treaty, but to see how far its existing provisions could be carried out without provoking the *ruse* prepared by the Russians. This is the desire of the Turks, who are becoming frightened. Assim Pasha has more than once urged on me adjournment to Constantinople, being afraid of his life.

As already telegraphed, I have mentioned Bourgas' plan to Austrian Commissioner and Assim Pasha, who both approve of it.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

I have thought it right to write or telegraph to your Lordship every conversation I have had and every suggestion made to me. This I have done to your Lordship alone.

No. 353.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 13, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Consul at Scutari:—

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs says that Sir Henry Layard gave a sort of assurance about Osman Bey. His Excellency would be very grateful if you would effect an arrangement. I will urge upon the Sultan to answer the Prince, and receive his advances favourably."

No. 354.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 189. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1879.

I INFORMED the Grand Vizier this morning that it had been stated to me that at the Council of Ministers on Tuesday of last week a project for the cession of the Island of Crete to France had been discussed, the Ministers having taken the oath of secrecy.

I said that the realization of such a project would change policy of England towards Turkey, and that England would in such a case consider herself entitled to take compensation.

Grand Vizier denied that there was the slightest truth in the report, which was fabricated by his enemies to do him injury. His Highness said that the question of cession of Crete to Greece instead of continental territory had been mooted in Council among themselves, but that they had received no overtures from France of any kind with regard to it. His Highness asked me my opinion regarding such a change. I said that Her Majesty's Government could not approve it; that the cession of Crete would not stifle the aspirations of Greece for continential extension, whilst it would make her more powerful to advance them. I expressed my satisfaction at his Highness' denial, and said that now that he had received message I had been directed to deliver to him, and had thus become aware of the catastrophe which a cession to France would bring upon the Empire, I felt that I should not have to revert to the subject.

No. 355.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER sketched to me, rather vaguely with his finger, this morning, the line which is to be offered to Greece. It runs by the Arta north to a point parallel to Janina, and then slants down in a straight line to the Gulf of Volo midway between Armyro and Volo. He said that the Porte desire sincerely to settle Greek question, but this was all it could give without pressure being exercised by Powers. I received the impression that the line of the Peneus would be accepted if insisted upon by the Powers, but would not be yielded in compliance to Greece alone. He said instructions would go to Moukhtar Pasha to-day or to-morrow.

No. 356.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER told me this morning that he hoped to induce Sultan to reply to Prince of Montenegro. His highness added that if the Prince were to make a proposal to send Representatives to Constantinople, like Servia and Roumania, the proposal would be acceded to. He wished Prince to know this.

No. 357.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1879.

MR. CALVERT reports, under date of 10th instant, that Adrianople has been reoccupied by Turkish troops without any demonstration of hostile feeling. The evacuation appears to progress with order, and to be accompanied by less emigration than was apprehended.

No. 358.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 13, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram *en clair* of the 4th, and to your despatch No. 325 of yesterday, French Minister for Foreign Affairs told me yesterday afternoon that France had already recognized Servia, and sent off Baron des Michels to Belgrade as Minister Resident.

With respect to Roumania, his Excellency said that he should wish to read debates on the resolution to amend Constitution before giving an opinion as to whether the resolution will be sufficient to warrant immediate recognition.

No. 359.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

I HAVE informed Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government have appointed General Hamley Boundary Commissioner for Bulgaria.

His Excellency is anxious that the Commission should recommence work as soon as possible, and has already by post communicated views on the general question to the Austrian Ambassador at London.

His Excellency holds firm to the opinion that all disputes must be decided by a majority of the Commissioners.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 360.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13, 4·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is much obliged for the communication of your answer to Sir Henry Wolff respecting the proposed deputation of Bulgarians and others to Vienna, Paris, and London. He will adopt your Lordship's language in the instructions which he will send to the Austrian Commissioner on the subject.

According to his Excellency's information, it is doubtful whether the deputation will be dispatched.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 361.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs assures me that he has sent no instructions to Austrian Minister at Athens to advise Greek Government to break off negotiations with Porte.

His Excellency cannot admit that the Turkish proposals are acceptable, but that would not justify a hasty rupture of negotiations on part of Greeks.

His Excellency's views are those held by Her Majesty's Government and that of France, and the Austrian Minister at Athens will be so inform [? ed].

His Excellency cannot understand that any one should impute to Austrian Government a design to stir up difficulties in Macedonia, as the single policy of the Empire is the preservation of tranquillity in European Turkey.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 362.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

IT will be a great convenience if you can manage that the Sultan's dinner to officers should take place at earliest possible date.

No. 363.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 355.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1879.

AS you will have learnt from a telegram which I have addressed to you to-day, it will, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be of great convenience that the dinner to which His Majesty the Sultan has invited the officers of the British fleet, which is about to withdraw from the vicinity of Constantinople, should take place at the earliest possible date, and I have accordingly instructed you to take such steps as you properly can with a view to this object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 364.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 138.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 129 of the 10th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that on that day Count Münster spoke to me again with respect to the recognition of Servia. He informed me that his Government quite accepted my view that as soon as Roumania had placed herself in the same position as Servia, recognition on the same principle should be accorded to her. The telegram, however, which he read to me appeared to make some reservation in respect of the greater sincerity which was believed to animate the counsels of the Servian statesmen, and I gathered that the German Government had not fully made up their minds that Roumania could be looked upon as sufficiently sincere to justify the assumption that the same pledge of compliance with the Treaty would suffice in her case as it was proposed to accept in the case of Servia. I, however, pointed out to Count Münster that Her Majesty's Government necessarily must attach paramount value to formal acts, and I therefore especially reserved to them the liberty of recognizing Roumania, if they thought fit, as soon as her Legislature had finally adopted the measure whose acceptance was now held to justify recognition of Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 365.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord, *Athens, March* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Greek Government has instructed M. Conduriottis to press the Porte to furnish the Turkish Commissioners with the long-promised instructions referred to in my despatch No. 54 of the 27th ultimo, since it appears that none have been yet received, nor any proposals made by the Ottoman Representatives.

M. Conduriottis was yesterday told that the instructions in question were being drawn up, and Carathéodory Pasha tried to represent the Greek Delegates as responsible for the want of progress in the negotiations, since they, he asserted, had proposed nothing.

The French Ambassador expressed to M. Conduriottis his hope that the negotiations would be continued; and having been asked by M. Delyanni what course I thought the best under the circumstances, I told him that, in my opinion, the Greek Commissioners should not be recalled before seeing what the Turkish proposals turned out to be.

On his expressing his apprehensions as to the effect which would be produced here if, at least, the territory designated at Berlin should not be obtained, I replied that any attempt to effect their purpose by force would chiefly result to the benefit of Austrian and Slav pretensions, so opposed to Hellenic interests, and that, in fact, such a course would be fatal to the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 366.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 3, 1879.

AT the beginning of last month General Ivanovich, having landed at Ragusa from an Austrian ship of war, left for Trebinjé, in Herzegovina, where he passed several days, returning to Serajevo the same way he came.

The object of his visit has been kept secret, as the authorities at Ragusa, when questioned on the subject, appeared unwilling to supply one with any information.

From what I have been able to gather, however, it appears that the inhabitants of Herzegovina, notwithstanding their apparent submission to the Austrian military authorities, are far from satisfied at the occupation and the present state of affairs, and, having shaken off the Turkish, would make an attempt to rise against their present rulers should they have a favourable opportunity.

Though the country is still under Martial law, and the possession of arms, therefore, strictly forbidden, several important seizures have taken place, the persons arrested being now in prison.

These facts having been reported to the Government, General Ivanovich, who is a Slav by birth, and who seems to have great influence in the Herzegovina, was sent to inquire into the matter.

The General, I know, has had interviews with several of the ex-rebel Chiefs, many of whom are now holding appointments under Government, and on these occasions took the opportunity to point out the folly of attempting another insurrection, advising them rather to turn their attention to more peaceful occupations, by which alone their country could attain any degree of prosperity.

Whether his good advice will have any effect remains to be seen, but officers coming from Herzegovina, with whom I have spoken on the subject, state that the insurrection is far from being stamped out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 367.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 2. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 3, 1879.

MR. ARTHUR EVANS, author of "Through Bosnia and the Herzegovina on Foot," and "Illyrian Letters," addressed to the "Manchester Guardian," and now living at Ragusa, has lately undertaken a relief expedition in the Bosnian mountains, an account of which I have the honour herewith to inclose.

His description of the state in which he found the repatriated fugitives is truly appalling; and he throws the blame on the Austrian authorities for not having supplied sufficient relief.

To what extent the inhabitants of Bosnia have been supplied with provisions by Austria, since the occupation, I have not been able to ascertain; but I can safely

state that, so far as Herzegovina is concerned, everything has been done to relieve the wants of the people during the winter months.

Ship-loads of maize, at the expense of the Austrian Government, have been convoyed from Ragusa into the interior, and there distributed gratis at the rate of 20 kilos. per month for every member of a family; on the understanding, however, that the heads of families desirous of such relief should fulfil certain conditions, which were that Austrian authority should be acknowledged, and the rights of the land-owners respected.

During and after the insurrection, the peasants imagined that having got rid of the landlords, they themselves had become the lawful owners of the soil. It is with the greatest difficulty, and by severe measures only, that the peasantry can be induced to forego rights which they never possessed, and to which they cannot possibly pretend to lay claim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 368.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 288.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 12, 1879.

ON the 6th instant I communicated verbally to M. Waddington the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 275 of the day before respecting the proposed rectification of the Greek frontier, and this afternoon I allowed his Excellency to read the despatch itself.

M. Waddington said that before expressing a definitive opinion upon several of the points touched upon, he would communicate with the Greek Government, as it was very important, with a view to arriving at a satisfactory settlement, to ascertain their views, and to deter the Greeks from exaggerated pretensions, and still more from imprudent actions.

Speaking of the view he took, as at present advised, of the principal geographical points, M. Waddington said that he admitted that it was an open question whether the general line specified at Berlin would give Jonnina to Turkey or to Greece; and he thought that the question to which country, on ethnographical grounds, that town should be assigned, was also open to discussion. He conceived, however, that on every ground the districts of Southern Epirus, such as Arta, Paramithia, Margarita, and Parga should be transferred to Greece.

Passing to Thessaly, M. Waddington, having opened a map, contended that the course of the Salamoria or Peneus ran nearly up to the ridge of Mount Pindus, near Metzovo, and observed that he thought there could be no question that the whole district to the south of that river, in which the great majority of the inhabitants were undoubtedly of the Hellenic race, should be annexed to Greece. He admitted, however, that there was a considerable Mussulman population in the town of Larissa.

He proceeded to observe that it might, perhaps, be found expedient to give to Greece more territory in Thessaly and less in Epirus than would be assigned to her if the Berlin line were closely adhered to; but, at all events, he considered it essential that the whole of the Gulf of Arta and the whole of the Gulf of Volo should belong to Greece.

M. Waddington said that he entirely agreed with your Lordship, that it was extremely desirable that the Governments of France and England should come to an agreement upon the line by which the cessions to Greece should be defined. He thought, in fact, that the successful solution of the question depended upon an agreement between England and France on a line to be distinctly recommended to Turkey and to Greece. It would, he conceived, be necessary that the opinion of the Powers should be very decidedly expressed, in order to make it possible for the Porte to make a sufficient cession of territory. It would, in fact, he said, be very difficult for the Sultan to yield in the matter, unless it was evident to his Mussulman subjects that he did so only in deference to the declared will of Europe.

M. Waddington repeated that he should require some time for consideration and for communication with Greece before he could make any positive suggestions in answer to your Lordship's despatch.

He expressed a wish to be furnished in the meantime with a Memorandum in writing of the contents of the despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 369.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 12, 1879.

AT to-day's sitting I mentioned casually that I had understood all the Commissioners have received instructions to hasten our proceedings. Baron Ring declared formally he had received no instructions of the kind. Coutouly told Lord Donoughmore yesterday that he expected orders by Powers to prolong our stay here till after the evacuation, in order to control introduction of Statute.

I have just had a private letter from Tirnova, stating that Baron Ring had made a formal offer to Bulgarians to accept protection of France. The Bulgarians had then addressed themselves to French Ambassador, who confirmed M. de Ring's proposal.

My informant also says that Tchernaieff is planning insurrection in Bosnia, and that he is expected from Russia. This plausible news reached me from another source. It is asserted that Turkish Government are in favour of insurrection, and are exciting the Mussulmans against Austria.

It would be well if instructions were given to M. de Ring in the same sense as the other Commissioners.

Schmidt having been invited by Stolipine to go to Slivno has been driven back by mobs at Yamboli and Slivno. At the former place an attempt was made to burn his house, and his carriages were broken. Tichmeneff, the same who commanded when Delimitation Commission was mobbed, told him he could not answer for his life, as the mob knew there were no orders for the troops to act. He, therefore, was obliged to return.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 370.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY told me this morning that he had received very unfavourable news from Constantinople respecting the progress of the negotiations for the Novi-Bazar Convention.

His Excellency said that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs was, as usual, playing fast and loose; making assurances one day and retracting them the next. In short, he spoke very bitterly of Carathéodory Pasha, stating that he is acting as dishonestly now as he did whilst at Vienna.

The Count added that Hungarian opposition—"Count Apponyi and his associates"—are largely responsible for the behaviour of the Porte in this matter. He had last night pledged his word in the Hungarian Delegation that he had no intention of pushing on to Salonica, but his opponents persisted in attributing to him this intention.

Turkish local officials are intriguing with Servians and Montenegrins to give this Government trouble, and it is impossible for Austria to allow all her enemies to combine against her without taking some precautionary measures.

I have sent this to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 371.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March 13, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY informs me that he has received from Constantinople accounts of military situation there of exactly the same tenour as those furnished to your Lordship by Mr. Malet in his telegram of the 10th instant.

His Excellency says that recommendations of General Baker with regard to occupation of Mustafa Pasha, Djuma[ca] and Bourgas are now to him, and he at once pronounce[d] an opinion as to their expediency.

He holds that mixed occupation must include a Russian as well as a Turkish contingent. He argues, that measure being taken in the general interests of Europe, there is no pretext for excluding Russia from participation in it. Europe steps in to replace Turkey in the execution of a task which the latter is unable to perform. The foreign army occupation should be placed under the control of European Commission. The Count would regard it as representing the moral rather than physical force of the Great Powers, and thinks in that light it would convince disaffected of the inutility of attempting to resist united will of Europe. Consequently, he does not think that a very large number of troops would be necessary. The Count says that as this involves a departure from Treaty of Berlin, its execution will require most delicate caution. Turkey will have, in the first place, to be asked whether she is in a position to maintain order by the employment of an adequate military force. Further, it is doubtful whether any other Power than England and Austria will agree to take part in the occupation. His Excellency hopes that Her Majesty's Government may persuade France to join; but he feels nearly certain that Germany will decline.

He ended a long conversation by saying he would give his serious consideration to details, and hoped that he would on his return to Vienna next Sunday be able to give Elliot (Sir Henry) some more matured ideas for communication to your Lordship.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 372.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, March 13, 1879.*

I TELEGRAPHED your Lordship yesterday objects [? objections] of Turkish Commissary at his request, and promised him my support if authorized by Her Majesty's Government, as I now am by your Lordship's telegram of to-day, immediately on my return to Tirnova.

No. 373.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, March 13, 1879.*

THE accusations from Vienna about my supposed partiality to the Russian Commissary are false and calumnious. I have written to your Lordship about them, officially and privately, by the Queen's Messenger two days since, and will write more by next opportunity in a private letter.

No. 374.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, March 13, 1879.*

QUEEN'S Messenger left yesterday with despatches. I have instructed him to take the shortest route to London.

At Sir H. D. Wolff's request, I communicated to M. Geshoff your Lordship's refusal to see him, and I have done my best to dissuade him from going altogether.

No similar deputation is intended from Bulgaria.

Ottoman Commissary objects to paragraphs of Organic Law programme regarding recent territorial limits of Principality, the permission of succession, and the right of international Treaties regarding the interior of the Principalities.

No. 375.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 192.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 13, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER told me this morning that he entertained the idea of naming Aleko Pasha Assistant Governor of Eastern Roumelia. He belongs to a Bulgarian family, is of Orthodox religion, and was formerly Ambassador at Vienna. His Highness said he thought the best plan with regard to Eastern Roumelia would be to occupy Bourgas in force, and to concentrate troops at two or three points on south and west frontier, and leave Balkans for future consideration. He had heard with anxiety that the Commissioners thought of coming to Constantinople before the conclusion of their labours. In his opinion the Commission ought not to be allowed to leave Philippopolis until [?] new order of things. They should form a bridge between departure of Russians and the arrival of the Turks. The Bulgarians would boast that they had frightened the Commission away, and would become emboldened by it.

No. 376.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 13, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER spoke to me this morning in an encouraging tone with regard to Austrian Convention. He said that Porte was most anxious to finish both it and Greek question, in order to be able to deal with Eastern Roumelia, and that he hoped and thought the Plenipotentiaries would shortly arrive at an understanding.

No. 377.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 14, 1879.*

I HAVE requested that the dinner to the Admiral may be on Monday, and am to receive an answer to-night, when I dine at the Palace.

No. 378.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 14, 1879.*

I LEARN that Irades for instructions to be sent to Moukhtar Pasha and for the resumption of negotiations for Austrian Convention have both been issued.

No. 379.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 14, 1879.*

THE German Ambassador informed me to-day that Prince Bismarck, while declining to express any opinion upon the expediency of summoning a Conference with respect to any matters concerning the Turkish Empire, wished it to be understood that if it was contemplated he should have no objection to its assembling at Berlin, but that he should not himself take part in it. At the same time, he did not hold to its

assembling at Berlin, and should not look upon the question of its locality as one of any importance. I told Count Münster in reply that the proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors to examine matters not dealt with by the Treaty of Berlin had not, as far as I know, assumed any definite shape. It had been mentioned to me confidentially by Count Schouvaloff, but simply as his own idea, and I had no reason to believe that any of the Powers were favourable to it. The opinion of the English Government would not probably be averse to a Conference of Ambassadors, if it should be desired by other Powers, on the assumption that two conditions were observed. In the first place, it must be very distinctly understood that no modification in the Treaty of Berlin was to be discussed. In the second place, it was essential that the decisions of the majority should prevail. This last condition appeared to me indispensable, for otherwise the Ambassadors who were charged with the duty would simply be wasting their time. I at the same time stated to Count Münster that it seemed to me probable from the tone and attitude of the Russian Government in respect to the Commissions of Delimitation that, unless some such arrangement was agreed to, those Commissions would never arrive at any definite result.

His Excellency then referred to the idea of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia. I told him that as regards this question the British Government had not altered its position from that which it occupied at the Congress of Berlin, but that, with the exception of Count Schouvaloff's personal opinion, I was not aware that the idea had received any greater support than was accorded to it at that time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 380.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 168.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1879.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador referred to-day to the question of a Conference of Ambassadors to settle minor points left undetermined by the Treaty of Berlin, to which, as you will have learnt from my despatch to the Earl of Dufferin, No. 14, Count Schouvaloff alluded in his conversation with me of the 3rd instant. His Excellency said that he thought that his Government would be unfavourable to the idea, from a fear lest it should lead the Bulgarians and Eastern Roumelians to speculate on the possibility of some change in the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government had not expressed itself as in any way hostile to such a meeting, but, if it took place, would insist on a definite statement that any proposal for the modification of the Treaty should be considered inadmissible. I likewise stated to him my belief that such a Conference would be useless unless the principle of the acceptance of the decision of the majority were admitted, in which observation his Excellency concurred.

I inclose copy of a despatch to Lord Odo Russell, recording a conversation which I have had with Count Münster upon the same subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 381.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Lumley.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1879.

BARON SOLVYNS called on me on the 10th instant and read to me the despatch, of which a copy is inclosed, which he had received from his Government, upon the subject of the recognition of the independence of Roumania.

The effect of the despatch was, as you will see, to express the anxiety of the Belgian Government lest the interference of the European Powers in a matter so purely internal as the emancipation of the Jews in Roumania should furnish a precedent for similar dealings with other States of secondary magnitude, and to intimate that, in order to avoid the appearance of giving any sanction to such a claim, the Belgian Government was disposed to recognize Roumania.

I pointed out to Baron Solvyns that there could not be the remotest analogy between the case of Roumania and that of any other secondary State which was already independent. Roumania, in the eyes of those Governments that had not recognized her independence, was not a State at all. If she became a State it was by virtue of the determination of a Congress of Powers annulling, upon certain stated conditions, the prescriptions of previous Treaties on the subject. Those conditions were no interference with her independence, because, until they were fulfilled, she had no independence to be interfered with. There could not be, I repeated, the slightest connection between such a proceeding and any attempt to dictate on internal questions to an independent State like Belgium.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 382.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, March* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the execution of the brigand Kharrab, and on the general state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, March* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the brigand Kharrab was condemned to death, and his sentence was carried out on the 24th ultimo at Nabatieh, the chief town of the district of which he was so long the terror.

This wholesome act of severity on the part of the present Vali cannot fail to have a most salutary effect, not only in that particular part of the country but throughout Syria, and will tend greatly to inspire respect for the authority of the Government in checking disorders.

The other robbers who were arrested are still undergoing their trial for their various crimes, some of whom certainly merit the fate of Kharrab.

The Moslem Sardouk, who was recently condemned to death for the murder of a police officer at Beyrout, has not yet been executed, and I am informed that his friends are trying to induce the family of the murdered man to accept the "dieh," or the price of blood, and have offered as much as 1,000*l.*; should this offer (which is quite in accordance with Turkish law) be accepted, Sardouk will probably be condemned to hard labour for fifteen years or for life.

No further reports have reached me relative to the state of affairs at Akkar, but at Tripoli an aged Frenchman was found, about ten days ago, murdered in his own house, where he had lived alone in a most miserly and sordid manner, though possessed of considerable property. Robbery was no doubt the object of this crime, as he was reputed to have in his possession, in gold and securities, between 40,000 fr. and 50,000 fr., of which only about 15,000 fr. were discovered after his death, secreted in various parts of his dwelling. The authors of this murder have not yet been discovered.

Midhat Pasha is expected to arrive at Beyrout from Damascus, and it is said that his Highness will proceed by the French steamer, on the 4th instant, to Tripoli, to inquire into the state of affairs in that district and to restore order, he being able now to absent himself more easily from Damascus owing to the appointment of Ibrahim Pasha as Mutessarif of that place, who took possession of his post last week.

The Governor-General is actively engaged in trying to discover some practicable way for uniting Beyrout and Damascus by means of a railway, though to this scheme

the Lebanon presents an almost insurmountable obstacle, which an eminent English civil engineer is endeavouring to find out some way of overcoming, though I fear it cannot be done without a very large expenditure of capital, for which there is not likely to be an adequate return for some time after the railway is completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

P.S. *March* 3.—Two more of the Metuoli brigands of the Merj Ayoun district were hung at Damascus on the 1st instant, and I am told that the same fate is likely to overtake one or two others.

G. J. E.

No. 383.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 383.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Damascus, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that Vassif Effendi, Midhat Pasha's Private Secretary, returned here on the 20th ultimo the bearer of certain powers conferred by the Porte upon his Highness in connection with the Project of Reforms recently submitted by him as necessary for the proper government of Syria.

Such powers, however, he tells me, are very far from being satisfactory or sufficient, notably in the two most important branches of justice and finance. More extended powers are, however, promised him, and he has been requested to send suggestions and reports for further consideration and approval.

His Highness, while complaining much of the delay and obstacles presented to his schemes for the better government of the country by the spirit of centralization with which the Council of Ministers is imbued, and which, in rendering him responsible before the world as Chief of the Executive, practically takes the power out of his hands, looks forward to combatting successfully the difficulties which surround him, and takes a hopeful view of the present situation.

Permission for the reorganization of the gendarmerie has been received, and the Pasha has taken the preliminary measures towards forming a body of public inspectors, or private police, for town and village service, the execution of which, however, together with other details of civil government, will necessarily have to await in some degree the adjustment of Imperial finance.

His plan for the imposition of a fixed land tax in lieu of tithe having been declined by the Porte, a recurrence to the latter becomes necessary. Zaptiehs, however, will not be employed in collecting taxes or in assisting tithe-gatherers, but will be replaced by a special body of men under proper control and organization. As harvest time is yet far distant, ample time is allowed for maturing and executing this and other plans in contemplation for the due protection of both peasantry and Government.

A cry having gone forth from the people that the new powers of Midhat Pasha, as understood by them and published in the semi-official journal here, are in reality not superior to those of his predecessors. I may venture to remark that, although the assertion seems to be true on the face, such powers in the hands of one who seems determined to shirk no personal responsibility, and to strain them when necessary without fear or favour, changes considerably the situation.

Yesterday two Moslem assassins of Christians were publicly hanged in the bazaars; another sent for execution to the scene of the murder (Merj Ayoun); while two others are lying under sentence of death to be carried out immediately.

Another murderer was hanged last week near Sidon.

No execution has taken place in Syria (outside the Lebanon) for ten years, I believe; and a great and salutary impression has been produced upon the people, which thus have proofs of a protective and punitory power brought home to them in the only manner which they understand, although long strangers to.

From my knowledge of the country, I believe that murder and crimes of violence, hitherto so rife, will soon become a rarity if this system is pursued.

His Highness has had to correct or draw up these sentences with his own hands, and bitterly complains of the incompetency of the judicial officials about him and the paucity of employés in the Tribunals.

An amnesty having been recently granted by the Sultan to certain men, such as Kemal Bey and others who formerly belonged to his party, he is in hopes of soon being able to attract them to Syria, and thus to avail himself of tried and competent men.

He has taken upon himself to order the payment of such taxes as were formerly paid in caimé to be paid in metallic currency after the 1st/13th March, from which date also all employés are to be similarly paid, thus removing an excuse at least for official corruption and abuse, besides a serious loss to Government.

Personal pressure applied by him to the Mahommedan community has resulted in 500*l.* being subscribed (annually) for the purpose of primary schools, several of which he has himself opened. This sum he hopes soon to raise to 1,000*l.*, and thus secure a fixed annual subvention.

Ibrahim Pasha, the newly-appointed Governor of the Sandjak of Damascus, arrived on the 20th ultimo, and has been installed as Mutessarif of the city and its six rural districts.

And Midhat Pasha, being thus relieved of local detail, left to-day for Tripoli, where his presence has been long required.

His Highness, as I have said, takes a hopeful, and, I may add, cheerful view of the present situation, and assures me of his confidence, having now gained an insight into the character of a people, one of the easiest to properly govern despite the innumerable jealousies, rivalries, and intrigues which engross and divide them, of being able greatly to improve the face of things within a year.

The reduction of the Lejah and the Hauran, which he considers the only serious obstacles which the country presents to stable and reformed government, may, however, as he sees, probably take longer.

The state of public feeling is not much varied. The people, impatient by nature and by much past suffering, are unable, by their want of education, their superstition, and general antipathy to Turkish rule, to realize or believe in the approach of reforms which do not bring at least the shadow of immediate personal benefit and relief, and seize upon every opportunity to deride and scoff while tacitly recognizing a power which it is useless to combat. And thus the Moslems, wounded in their religious feelings by the executions of co-religionists for the murder of Christians, and called upon to subscribe for schools which they consider ought to be supported by Government in view of past exactions and official peculations, decline to believe in anything good; while the non-Moslem minority (the least suffering) of the population awaits hopefully but sceptically the realization of benefits vaguely connected in their minds with reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 384.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Rome, March* 10, 1879.

IN reply to inquiries which I have made as to the answers of the Italian Government to the Circulars of the Russian Government, of which copies are inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 113 of the 7th instant, I have been informed that to the first Circular—Dobrudscha Frontier question—the reply has been that in regard to the point of departure near Silistria, on the east, it is so distinctly laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, the Austrian Plenipotentiary having pointed out, without any one

raising a dispute respecting it, the only spot at which a bridge over the Danube could be constructed, and the majority of the Frontier Commission having subsequently ratified the choice, that the Italian Government are of opinion that a fresh discussion respecting it cannot again be admitted. They are, however, quite ready to enter into an exchange of views with the other Cabinets respecting the matters of detail to which the Russian Circular refers.

The reply of the Italian Government to Circular No. 2—Bulgar-Roumelian frontier—draws attention to and insists upon the fact that the Treaty speaks of the chain of the Balkans, and not the crest, and that the intention of the Congress evidently was that the frontier should be drawn in such a manner as to afford the means of defence to Turkey. The Italian Government is quite ready to desire their Delegate (who will naturally be unprejudiced) to return to take part in the Commission of Delimitation, and they are of opinion that the Commission should proceed at once with its labours, and continue them until the completion of its task, leaving aside contested points to be afterwards settled either by the opinion of the majority or by a system of compensation in other places.

In regard to Circular No. 3—the Bulgarian frontier along the line of the Danube—the Italian Government state that they were not aware that there was any contestation between Russia and Roumania on this subject. They are, however, quite ready to study it with the other Governments of Europe. It appears to them that the question should be settled according to the usual international practice in such cases, which they believe to be that the thalweg should be the frontier.

The first and third Circulars were communicated to M. Depretis in their original shapes by the Russian Ambassador in Rome, and have been answered through the Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

The second was embodied by Baron Uxkull in a note, and the reply to it has been sent in the same form to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 385.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 291. Secret.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 12, 1879.

IN the course of an interview which I had this afternoon with M. Waddington at the French Foreign Office I mentioned incidentally the report which has appeared in several newspapers that the French Government is in treaty with the Porte for the cession of the Island of Rhodes to France.

M. Waddington said that he was utterly at a loss to account for this report, as no communication whatever with respect to Rhodes, or to anything connected with that island, had recently taken place between the French Government and the Porte.

M. Waddington proceeded to state to me, in the most distinct terms, that the French Government had no intention to make any acquisition whatever of territory on the Mediterranean Sea.

There was, he said, one point to which the French Government attached very great importance. They held it to be essential that the influence of France should be predominant at Tunis. This was all they required. They did not desire to annex Tunis to their African possessions, and they should not do so, unless, indeed, they should be interfered with by Italy in the Regency, and should thus be forced to take possession of it in self-defence.

On my return home, after this interview, I received a telegram from your Lordship reciting one from Mr. Malet, in which he reported to you secret information, which had reached him from a credible source, that negotiations were being carried on with the utmost secrecy at Constantinople for the cession of Crete to France.

This intelligence, even if true, does not necessarily impugn the sincerity of M. Waddington's declaration to me, nor, on the other hand, does that declaration show that the intelligence must be untrue; the negotiations may have been set on foot by M. Fournier, not only without instructions from his Government, but, moreover, without their knowledge. Such a proceeding would be by no means incompatible with what we know of his character, or with what we have recently seen of his mode of action. Neither the declared policy nor the specified instructions of his Government seem to restrain him; and he has ere now shown a disposition to pursue a policy of his own, in the hope that, if successful, he may force it on his Government and obtain special credit for himself with the French public. As regards the present scheme, he may have been led to set it on foot by annoyance at the probable failure of the Tocqueville financial arrangement, and by a desire to retaliate on the British Embassy the deep mortification he is known to have felt when the Cyprus Convention was concluded without his knowledge.

The supposition rests, of course, on mere conjecture. It occurs to me, however, that if M. Fournier be in fact engaged in a secret negotiation with the Porte about Crete, his schemes might be in great measure disconcerted by being made public as soon as possible in the newspapers as intelligence from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 386.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 295.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 13, 1879.

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 325 of the 12th March, reciting a telegram in which are stated the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the recognition of the independence of Servia and Roumania.

I repeated the contents of this despatch to M. Waddington this afternoon, and observed to him that Her Majesty's Government thought that, as a matter of public policy, the recognitions should not be delayed by the Western Powers longer than was necessary, and that they themselves proposed to recognize Servia at once.

M. Waddington said that, as I was aware, France had some time before recognized the independence of Servia, and dispatched Baron des Michels thither as Minister Resident.

I then mentioned the intelligence that had arrived of the adoption by the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies of the resolution in favour of amending the 7th Article of the Constitution; and I asked M. Waddington whether he considered that this step would be sufficient to warrant the immediate recognition of that Principality.

M. Waddington answered that he should wish to know the details of the proceedings of the Chamber, and in fact to read the debates, before giving an opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 387.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 13, 1879.

I PUT yesterday into M. Waddington's hand a copy of your Lordship's telegram *en clair* of the 11th instant, stating that General Hamley had been appointed by Her Majesty's Government Boundary Commissioner for Bulgaria, and that he was in readiness to start and begin operations whenever the other Powers should signify their intention to direct their Commissioners to return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 388.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 299.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram dated the 10th instant, 6·15 P.M., I asked M. Waddington yesterday whether he had received intelligence that a deputation from Eastern Roumelia was coming to Paris and London to ask for union with Bulgaria, or, failing that, for a European Governor and the abolition of the right of Turkey to garrison the Balkans.

M. Waddington said that he had heard of petitions being in preparation, but that he was not aware that it was proposed to send delegates to make personal representations.

I said that positive information had reached your Lordship that a deputation was about to start, and that you had instructed Sir H. Drummond Wolff to say distinctly that you would decline to see any person representing a party in Eastern Roumelia, and to add that Her Majesty's Government would absolutely refuse to entertain any proposal for the modification of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Waddington expressed emphatically his concurrence in your Lordship's refusal to listen to any proposal to modify the Treaty, and added that there was no safety in any other course.

He did not say distinctly whether he himself should or should not consent to see the deputation if it presented itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 389.

Draft of a Note from Count Andrassy to Baron Langenau.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Karolyi, March 15.)

Buda-Pesth, le Mars, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence copie d'une Circulaire par laquelle le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg invite les Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin à réunir sans délai les membres de la Commission Internationale chargée de la délimitation entre la Principauté de Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale, et à s'entendre dès à présent sur les principes qui devront présider à leurs instructions.

Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal n'a aucune difficulté d'adhérer à cette proposition, mais nous devons dire en même temps que nous ne partageons pas l'appréhension du Gouvernement Impérial Russe que le prétexte de la défense des Balkans pourrait donner lieu à des abus qui compromettraient l'avenir de la Bulgarie et la consolidation de l'apaisement.

En jugeant la situation avec calme et impartialité le Congrès réuni à Berlin a reconnu alors que les pouvoirs limités confiés à la Turquie dans la Roumélie Orientale et sa condition à l'intérieur la plaçaient dans une position qui n'est rien moins qu'agressive. Il en conclut que pour donner à son œuvre une garantie de stabilité il était nécessaire de tracer la frontière d'une manière à pouvoir être défendue par la Turquie.

Depuis lors rien n'est venu renforcer la position politique ou militaire de la Porte, et nous ne pouvons pas nous rendre compte en quoi la situation aurait changé au point à donner lieu à craindre une agression de la part de la Turquie. A en juger au contraire la disposition des esprits dans la Bulgarie et dans la Roumélie Orientale, et les mouvements insurrectionnels qui ont éclaté dans quelques parties de la Macédoine, nous sommes plutôt portés à croire que la situation se dessine en effet tel que le Congrès l'a prévue. Les tendances que révèlent ces mouvements puiseraient certainement un nouvel élément dans tout essai qui serait fait pour modifier les stipulations convenues à Berlin, et qui ferait croire à une incertitude sur leur valeur et sur leur nécessité. Ces tendances en seraient encouragées, et au lieu de consolider la pacification, on aboutirait au résultat contraire. Nous croyons donc que les stipulations du Traité de Berlin répondent à la situation actuelle, et qu'il est urgent, non pas de les réviser, mais de les mettre à exécution.

Nous constatons avec plaisir que le but que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg s'est proposé par l'invitation qu'il vient d'adresser aux Puissances n'est autre que celui de faciliter l'exécution du Traité, et dans cette conviction nous n'avons aucune objection à ce que la Commission Européenne pour la délimitation de la frontière du Balkan se réunisse aussitôt. Nos Commissaires auront pour instruction de s'inspirer de la plus grande conciliation dans l'application des clauses du Traité de Berlin, et de veiller à ce qu'aucune des deux parties ne puissent se croire menacée.

Le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg a touché aussi à la question de savoir comment on doit résoudre les points en litige en cas de divergence entre les Commissaires. Nous lui savons gré d'avoir mis cette question à l'ordre du jour; car, en effet, la marche des travaux des différentes Commissions qui ont été instituées par le Traité de Berlin prouve qu'il est nécessaire d'établir un principe général, en vertu duquel elle serait

mise en mesure de résoudre les questions dont la solution leur est confiée, au lieu d'être obligé de laisser en suspens des parties essentielles de leur tâche.

Chacune de ces Commissions a adopté un autre principe pour ses votations. Celle pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale prend ses résolutions à l'unanimité des voix; celle pour la délimitation de la Bulgarie a adopté la majorité en réservant aux Gouvernements le droit d'accepter ou de refuser son œuvre dans son ensemble ou en parties. La Commission pour la délimitation de la nouvelle frontière Serbe enfin vote à la majorité des voix sur les questions de forme et à l'unanimité sur les questions de principe.

En laissant de côté la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale, dont la tâche est tout-à-fait spéciale, et en nous limitant aux Commissions de Délimitation, nous croyons qu'il est d'autant plus urgent d'établir un principe général à leur égard que ces Commissions se réuniront bientôt pour continuer leurs travaux, et qu'une autre, celle pour la délimitation du Monténégro, devra aussi être convoquée sous peu.

Il est hors de doute que les décisions du Congrès n'ont pu être prises qu'à l'unanimité. Il s'agissait d'établir entre les Cabinets l'accord sur les principes sur les traits les plus essentiels des questions, sur la direction générale des nouvelles frontières. Dans ces termes il a été possible d'obtenir l'unanimité, grâce à l'esprit de modération et de conciliation qui a présidé aux travaux du Congrès.

Naturellement le même principe doit aussi être observé en tout ce qui concerne l'interprétation des stipulations arrêtées, mais il en est autrement à notre avis dès qu'il s'agit de l'exécution à donner aux résolutions prises, ou de l'aplanissement des divergences auxquelles elle donne lieu dans les Commissions de Délimitation. En liant la solution des questions de cette nature à la condition de l'unanimité on la rend au moins très-difficile sinon impossible. On ne peut pas espérer que tous les Comissaires soient unanimes sur chaque borne, et si on réserve l'appel aux Puissances on ne fait qu'augmenter les difficultés, puisque les Cabinets ne peuvent pas fixer une frontière par correspondance ou tomber d'accord sur chaque détail de bornage. Les Cabinets seraient ainsi toujours placés dans l'alternative ou de voir se perpétuer des questions dans lesquelles sont engagées des intérêts locaux et autour desquelles s'agitent les passions, ou de s'occuper eux-mêmes du travail dans ces conditions qui n'admettent aucune chance d'arriver à l'unanimité.

Nous ne voyons qu'un seul moyen pour sortir de cette difficulté. Nous pensons que les Commissions de Délimitation qui ont encore à mettre à exécution les clauses du Traité de Berlin devraient prendre leurs résolutions à la majorité des voix et que les Puissances devraient tomber d'accord à admettre ce principe. A notre manière de voir le principe de l'unanimité reconnu nécessaire pour les décisions du Congrès n'est pas atteint par cette manière de procéder; car il ne s'agit dans les Commissions que de l'exécution des décisions du Congrès qui ont été votées à l'unanimité, et le principe que ces décisions soient appliquées sur les lieux par une Commission Internationale a également reçu l'assentiment de toutes les Puissances. Nous rappelons que le Congrès lui-même a autorisé la Commission de Délimitation à statuer par voie de majorité sur le détail des frontières de Trn et de Pirot, attendu que malgré la présence des chefs de Cabinets il n'a pas été possible d'établir l'unanimité sur cette question et qu'il n'y avait pas d'autre moyen de la résoudre.

Nous faisons encore observer que là où il paraissait nécessaire d'établir une autorité supérieure appelée à statuer dans le cas où la décision ne pourrait pas être prise dans la Commission même, le Congrès a déjà pourvu. Ainsi pour la Commission Consulaire en Bulgarie il a prescrit la majorité en cas de dissentiment entre les Consuls délégués, et l'appel à la Conférence des Ambassadeurs à Constantinople en cas de divergence entre cette majorité et un des Commissaires. Aucun appel n'a été prescrit pour les Commissions de Délimitation évidemment parce que le Congrès était convaincu de la nécessité de faire résoudre définitivement et sur les lieux mêmes les questions dont elles ont à s'occuper.

Le Congrès ayant déjà prononcé sur les questions de principe nous croyons que les détails du tracé des frontières et son application sur les lieux ne devraient et ne pourraient être décidés dans les Commissions qu'à la majorité des voix. Nous y voyons le seul moyen de résoudre promptement et définitivement les questions en suspens et d'assurer la consolidation de l'apaisement, qui est dans nos vœux comme dans ceux du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg.

Je prie votre Excellence de s'expliquer à ce sujet avec son Altesse le Prince Gortchacow en lui donnant lecture de cette dépêche et en lui laissant copie s'il le désire.

Recevez, &c.

No. 390.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 13, 1879.

GENERAL STOLIPINE told me last night that immigrants have arrived here to the number of about 30,000, and that he intends settling them in the lands of refugee Turks. This is practically carrying out the policy reported in my despatch No. 81 of the 29th October, and making impossible repatriation of these Turks.

I have some reason to believe that the Russian authorities are in communication with some of the volunteer leaders in Rhodope, and no doubt inciting them to alarm Christian inhabitants of the districts about to be evacuated.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 391.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 14, 1879.

MR. PALGRAVE telegraphs: "I communicated your message to M. Gueshoff. He says that effect will be injurious to moderate party, and will throw all into the hands of ultra-Russian section of Assembly. I hope he may be mistaken, but fear result."

I HAVE sent following telegram to Mr. Malet:—

"General Stolipine, after writing a most extraordinary letter to the Commission, proposed to accompany M. Schmidt to Slivno. They have started to-day.

"Schepeleff spoke to me very seriously last night as to dangers likely to arise if the Porte did not definitely name a Governor before the evacuation."

No. 392.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 14, 1879.

A TURK, in consequence of a petition presented to the Commission, is intended [? sentenced] by a Russian Court-martial to be transported to Siberia. I should be glad of your Lordship's instructions on this point.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 393.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1879.

THE State dinner is fixed for Monday. A Royal yacht will go to Gallipoli to convey Admiral and officers to Constantinople. They will be received at the Palace of Dolmabatche, where the Sultan invites them to reside on this occasion. His Majesty desires thus publicly to recognize the services which have been rendered to him by the Queen, Her Majesty's Government, and the fleet during the hours of his trial and misfortunes.

No. 394.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Calvert, dated 13th instant:—

"I received this morning through a Russian office your telegrams of 8th, 9th, and of yesterday through Odessa.

"Reouf Pasha informs me Kirk-Kilissé will be occupied 15th instant and evacuated by Russians same day. Ouzoun-Keupri and Demotica now evacuated. Government was transferred to-day. Scobeleff will leave with the reserve on the 17th instant. Bulgarians are molesting Turks on both sides of border, and committing numerous atrocities in Yeni-Zaghra district."

No. 395.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879, 3·50 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your language to Grand Vizier respecting Crete, reported in your telegram No. 189 of 13th instant.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 198 of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate the Sultan's desire to confer decorations, as being a proof of His Majesty's goodwill, and of the satisfactory manner in which the stay of the fleet in the waters of Constantinople has been carried out by the officers and crews, but regret that it is contrary to long-established regulations to give the Queen's permission to accept and wear them.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879, 4·25 P.M.

PLEASE ascertain at once, and reply by telegram, whether the Russian Government have any objection to publication of Prince Gortchacow's note to Lord A. Loftus of the 20th January (8th February), inclosed in Lord A. Loftus' despatch No. 85 of that date. At the same time, please explain that the publication of our despatch in the "Politische Correspondenz" has taken us completely by surprise. Nor can we at all account for it. As it has appeared, Parliament will insist on having the exact text.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 98 of yesterday, can you give me name of Turk, and place of Court-martial?

Is your informant trustworthy?

No. 399.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 359.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879.

YOU will have learnt from a telegram which I have addressed to you to-day that the language which you held to the Grand Vizier, as reported in your telegram No. 189 of the 13th instant, on the subject of a reported project for the cession of the Island of Crete to France by Turkey, has met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 400.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 361.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879.

I HAVE informed you, in a telegram which I sent you this day, in reply to yours of yesterday's date, marked No. 198, that, whilst highly appreciating the desire of the Sultan to confer decorations as a proof of his goodwill and as a recognition of the satisfactory manner in which the officers and crews of the British squadron have performed their duties during their stay in the waters of Constantinople, Her Majesty's Government nevertheless regret that they are unable to meet His Majesty's wishes in this respect, as it is contrary to long-established regulations to grant the Queen's permission to accept and wear foreign decorations, except under special circumstances of active service in time of war, or of actual employment in the service of the Sovereign by whom the Order is conferred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 401.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Siborne.

(No. 5.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 12 of the 6th instant, relative to the proposals of the French Commissioner for the Danube (M. Herbette) for repaying to the Porte at an early date the sums due to it on account of advances made to the European Commission.

So far as I am able to judge from the information given in your despatch, the plan is such as you may properly support, provided that it meets with the assent of the Turkish Government, and that it is found possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement with Messrs. Bischoffsheim or other capitalists for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 402.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1879.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram *en clair* which has been received from Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, stating that the Sultan has fixed Monday for the State dinner which His Majesty proposes to give to the Admiral in command and to the officers of Her Majesty's fleet in the Sea of Marmora.

His Imperial Majesty has likewise been pleased to invite these officers to reside on this occasion in the Palace of Dolmabactche.

I am to state, with reference to the letter from this Department of the 10th instant, that Lord Salisbury is of opinion that this gracious invitation of the Sultan should be accepted, and I am to request that instructions accordingly may be sent to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby, and that he may be directed to return the next morning to Gallipoli, and to take the ships under his command through the Dardanelles without any further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 403.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Athens, March* 7, 1879.

A POSITIVE denial is here given to the truth of a report which has come from Constantinople that some large bands of Greeks have made an incursion into Thessaly or Epirus.

The Committees in Athens representing those provinces maintain that they are in no way connected with the proceedings in question, and it is suspected that the Porte has fabricated these reports with a view to cause complications with Greece, and especially to delay the settlement of the matters now under consideration at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 404.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 14, 1879.

I TELEGRAPH to-day on a matter which seems grave. A public writer, an Ottoman subject, was charged before the Russian Court-martial of having falsified a statement in a petition presented to the Commission without any complaint on our part. He has been condemned to exile in Siberia.

This sentence has been rendered in virtue of Decrees published in province before the Treaty of San Stefano. The Turks protested against this as an infringement of Berlin Treaty, and I joined in protest.

Will you kindly send instructions?

We shall probably finish our Statute in a fortnight.

We then thought of going to Constantinople. It appears from Mr. Malet's telegram that the Grand Vizier is opposed to this. Will you kindly let me know your opinion on this also?

Does Porte intend to suspend (group wrong) garrisons and only occupy Bourgas, as I learn from Mr. Malet? The announcement should be made as soon as possible.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 405.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 14, 1879.

ASSIM PASHA asked me to request Her Majesty's Embassy to suggest to Porte that the quickest way of instituting the reforms of Article XXIII of the Treaty would be the application of our Statute to the other provinces. He does not wish his name to be mentioned as the author of this idea.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 406.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1879.

I PRESENTED my letter of credence to the Sultan last night. I urged His Majesty to finish Greek and Austrian questions, so that when time came he might be free to deal with Eastern Roumelian question. I warned the Sultan that if a strong force was not then available the responsibility would rest with his Minister of War, in whose administrative capacity we had no confidence. I spoke warmly in favour of Grand Vizier, who was present during the conversation. His Highness thanked me afterwards warmly for the good advice I had given, and for my remarks concerning himself, which he said would be of great service to him.

His Majesty acknowledged the advantage of the counsel I had ventured to suggest, and paid particular attention to my remark about Minister of War, which he desired me to repeat in his presence to the Grand Vizier, who was standing apart at the moment.

No. 407.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1879.

WITH reference to Sir H. Drummond Wolff's telegram of 14th instant, 9 P.M., 5th paragraph, the Grand Vizier's opinion with regard to Balkans and Bourgas, mentioned in discussing the question, must not be considered as the decision of the Porte.

His Highness has asked me to come and talk over the matter again with him at length. I said I hoped to have further advice from your Lordship, and would then come to him.

(Sent to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.)

No. 408.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1879.

I HAVE sent following to Consul-General Green:—

"Porte will be satisfied and grateful if you can obtain from the Prince authority for a Turkish Consul to reside at Podgoritza."

The Sultan did not answer Prince's telegram, as he felt that it was too unceremonious a manner of beginning relations. His Majesty has given orders that if Montenegro offers to send a Representative to the Porte the offer shall be accepted at once. His Majesty desires the relations to be friendly.

No. 409.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1879.

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Adrianople, dated 14th instant:—

"Ottoman authorities installed to-day at Government konak, and have entered on their administrative functions. Evacuation is being steadily carried out in accordance with arrangements reported."

No. 410.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Adrianople, dated yesterday:—

"Reouf Pasha [tells?] me that Russian Commissioner at Kirk-Killissé has invited Vessel Pasha, commanding Turkish Advanced Guard, to occupy that town to-morrow morning (Sunday), as the Russian garrison will evacuate it during the [day?]. Advanced Guard reached Skopo [*sic*] yesterday. Moustafa Pasha also occupied and evacuated to-day."

No. 411.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 15, 1879.

I SAW Prince Gortchacow yesterday. I said, in reference to the Emperor's intimation as to return of his army in event of massacres by Turkish soldiers, that under Berlin Treaty Sultan was entitled to assert political authority over the province; that inhabitants might oppose exercise of that legitimate right; that out of that opposition bloodshed might ensue, for which the Turkish Executive would be in no way responsible; yet such an eventuality would be certainly denounced as a massacre of Christians by Turks. Prince Gortchacow replied that neither Emperor nor his armies would countenance or protect inhabitants of Roumelia in resistance to introduction of the régime provided under Treaty; that the reference of the Emperor was not to a rising of this nature; and that the Russian Government would exercise all its influence to induce Roumelians to acquiesce in approaching settlements.

I repeated my assurances that the English Government, on its part, would at all times urge the Porte, in an equally energetic manner, to respect the rights and privileges of Roumelian population as assured to them by Constitution now being framed by Commission.

It would have an excellent effect if you authorize me to say that this language had met with your approval. I am certain the best hope of reaching an understanding is on this line. It would do more to satisfy the Emperor than anything.

The Emperor admits my report of his speech to be correct.

I again pressed appointment of Rustom Pasha. Prince Gortchacow raised some objections.

I asked If I was to [? understand] them as implying absolute refusal. Evidently he did not quite want that interpretation to be put upon them.

He then alluded to acquisition of Kuram as infraction of previous understanding.

No. 412.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 16, 1879.

PRINCE GORTCHACOW has no objection to publication of his note to Lord A. Loftus of 8th February.

No. 413.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

Pesth, March 15, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY authorizes me to state to your Lordship that the copy of your despatch of the 26th January to Lord A. Loftus, published in the "Political Correspondence" of Vienna, was sent to the editor of that journal from Constantinople, and that the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in no way responsible for its publication.

No. 414.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

Foreign Office, March 16, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 7. Your language is fully approved by Her Majesty's Government, and you are authorized to repeat on their behalf assurances in the same sense. We cannot promise to use physical force, but, short of that, will exert our utmost influence to induce Porte to keep its engagements.

No. 415.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, March 16, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU may communicate to Exarch my telegram of 9th.

No. 416.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

Foreign Office, March 16, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS Nos. 192 and 202.

The disposition of Turkish troops on frontiers of Eastern Roumelia under Article XV of Treaty is partially a military question. On that Her Majesty's Government can of course offer no opinion. But for political purposes we agree that it is not necessary at present to place troops along the line of the Balkans. We should be disposed to recommend the posting of strong divisions at Bourgas, Mustapha Pasha, and Ichtiman. If disorders arise in the province after Russian evacuation, then, if a Governor has been appointed, these divisions will be at hand to suppress revolt either in Slivno, Philippopolis, or Tatar-Bazardjik. We would take care to provide English officers to accompany them, as before suggested, to prevent either the reality or the imputation of atrocities. If no Governor has by that time been appointed, these divisions would prevent any free communication between Eastern Roumelia and outside sympathizers, until either a trustworthy militia could be organized, or some other remedy taken by Europe for the abnormal condition of things. Though Turkey would thus abstain from Balkan garrisons, I should not recommend any announcement of such an intention, as that would involve a pledge.

The above is written on the assumption that there is no mixed occupation. Count Schouvaloff is trying to induce his Government to consent to it; and Vienna is still keen for it. If it took place, my impression is it would be confined to five Powers, France and Germany abstaining. But there is no need for you to mention it to the Turks, except as a motive to quicken them in organizing the three divisions mentioned and the gendarmerie.

(Repeated to Sir H. Wolff.)

No. 417.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 364.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your telegrams Nos. 192 and 202 of the 13th and 15th instant, and I informed you to-day by telegraph that they were unable to offer any opinion with regard to the disposition of the Turkish troops on the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia under Article XV of the Treaty of Berlin, of which the settlement must be guided by military considerations. For political purposes, however, Her Majesty's Government agree that it is not necessary at present to place troops along the line of the Balkans. They would rather recommend that strong bodies should be posted at Bourgas, Mustapha-Pacha, and Ichtiman, which would be available on the summons of the Governor-General should he have been appointed to suppress any revolt which might break out within the province, either in Slivno, Philippopolis, or Tatar-Bazardjik after the evacuation of the province by the Russian troops. Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to provide English officers to accompany these troops, as previously suggested, in order to guard against either the reality or imputation of atrocities on their part. If, however, by that time no decision should have been come to with regard to the choice of a Governor, these troops might be used to prevent any free communication taking place between the people of Eastern Roumelia and sympathisers outside the province, until a reliable militia could be organized or some other remedy adopted by the Powers for the abnormal condition of things now existing. Though by taking this course the Turkish Government would abstain from furnishing garrisons for the Balkans, it would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be unadvisable to publish this intention, as such an announcement might be construed to involve a pledge.

Her Majesty's Government have come to the above conclusions on the assumption that no mixed occupation of the Province of Eastern Roumelia will take place after its evacuation by the Russian troops, a measure to which Count Schouvaloff is endeavouring to induce his Government to consent, and of which the Austrian Government is still strongly in favour. If such an occupation took place it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that Germany and France would abstain from taking part in it, and that it would be confined to the remaining five Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin; but I have informed you that it is unnecessary for you to mention this subject to the Grand Vizier, except as an incitement to hasten the organization of the above-mentioned bodies of troops and of the gendarmerie.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 418.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 65.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the assurances which you gave to Prince Gortchacow, as reported in your telegram No. 7 of the 15th instant, to the effect that England would strongly urge the Porte to respect the rights of the population of Eastern Roumelia, as secured to them by the Constitution now in course of preparation, on the evacuation of the province by the Russian troops, have received the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government, and I have authorized your Excellency, in a telegram which I have sent you to-day, to repeat these assurances to his Highness on their behalf.

Although Her Majesty's Government cannot promise to use force to induce the Porte to fulfil its engagements under the Treaty of Berlin, they will undertake to exert their utmost moral influence with a view to this end.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 419.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 17.*)

(No. 91. Very Confidential.)

Philippopolis, March 1, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning I received from the Exarch a memorandum unsigned, copy of which is inclosed.

His Beatitude had promised me this communication some weeks ago, at the date of writing my despatch No. 53. Shortly after receiving it he called himself, and stayed with me some time. The chief points of his conversation are contained in my telegram No. 72.

His Beatitude expressed himself most anxious on the subject of the Bulgarian Churches in Macedonia. He said that any attempt to subject them to the Patriarch would be not only an injustice but a failure. The Greeks could never get hold of the Bulgarians. The latter, rather than be subjected to the Patriarch, would become Uniats.

Prince Dondoukoff had proposed to him to take up his residence at Sophia, and he had for some time discussed the idea. The Bulgarians of Macedonia had remonstrated so strongly that he had given it up. Amongst other things these congregations had threatened that if he lived at Sophia they would become Uniats. This threat, he believed, had been suggested by an Austrian intrigue, and as a weapon against Russia; but he was convinced it would be carried out if any attempt were made to subject the Bulgarian congregations to Greek ecclesiastical authority. Such an attempt had never succeeded. Not only would it fail again, but it would prevent the pacification of the country by leaving the principal cause of disorder, and maintain the predominance of Russian influence. His Beatitude is evidently very anxious on this subject, which I have no doubt has been dexteriously handled by the French. I hear from other sources that he has promised the French Commissioner, in return for their support, to submit himself to the Pope.

I questioned his Beatitude about the proposed Bulgarian deputation to the European Courts. He replied that in this he had been overruled by intrigues at Tirnova. His advice to his countrymen was to accept the Treaty of Berlin, and the creation of the province. The deputation of Eastern Roumelians to the Courts of Europe was intended by him not to ask for annexation, but for certain securities against Turkish mal-administration.

The deputation had been selected, viz., Messrs. Gueshoff and Vulkovitch. I understood that the latter had received some post from Prince Dondoukoff, but of this I am not quite certain. At all events, both these Notables are at Tirnova, and there the idea of a moderate deputation has been, according to the Exarch, been laid aside in favour of a Pan-Bulgarian deputation from Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and Macedonia, to ask for the creation of a united Bulgarian State.

I asked his Beatitude whether he anticipated any disorder on the evacuation, and whether he did not think all this arming and drilling very dangerous. To this he replied that the arming, &c., was intended to impress the Powers with the necessity of taking some precaution against disorder. Notwithstanding violent speeches, articles, and demonstrations, the Bulgarians of the province had made up their minds to accept the Treaty. Russia, being exhausted, had told them they must do so, and they were willing to make the best of it. All they wanted was security against the Turks. If this could be shown them the effervescence would subside, and they would be willing at all events to abide their time. But the reality of their fear had been proved by the recent emigration from the neighbourhood of Adrianople. This had been greatly exaggerated, but no doubt it was taking place to a great extent. He had struggled against it, and had sent both Bishops, priests, and lay agents to calm the apprehensions of the people. In fact he had intended visiting the district himself, and had only given up the idea after consultation with General Stolipine, who was now at Adrianople. The feeling of fear was genuine, but he thought the people were being quieted. Everything here would go smoothly if some precautions were taken to demonstrate to the people that the past would be forgotten and the future safe.

His Beatitude then recurred to the question of the Berat for Bishops. I replied that I was considering it seriously, but could give no answer, as I did not know how far it came within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Before leaving the Exarch begged that I would take measures to prevent any of his communications becoming known at Constantinople, and I gave him a promise accordingly. I think it right, however, that the contents of this despatch should be known by Her Majesty's Minister at that capital, and send it with the others under flying seal to Mr. Mallet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 419.

Memorandum by the Exarch respecting the Claims of the Bulgarian Church.

Excellence,

VOUS connaissez déjà le long travail national Bulgare qui eût pour résultat la création en 1862 de l'Exarchat Bulgare par un Firman Impérial, basé sur un projet du Patriarcat.

Dans son Article 10, le Firman détermine ainsi son étendue territoriale :—

L'administration ecclésiastique de cet Exarchat Bulgare comprendra les Eparchies de Roustchouk, Silistrie, Choumla, Tirnovo, Sophia, Vratza, Lortcha, Viddin, Nich Piroto, Kustendil, Samacof, Veleso, Varna, en exceptant la ville avec une vingtaine de villages sur le rivage de la Mer Noire jusqu'à Kustendja, dont les habitants ne seraient pas Bulgares, le sandjak de Slivno, sans Axhiate et Messembrie, le district de Sozopoli, sans les villages sur le rivage de la mer; L'Eparchie de Philippopoli sans la ville et sans les villages Stanimaca, Kouklin, Vodena, Ayranites, Panaguia, Novoselo, Leseovo, Ahlan, Batchkovo, Belachtitza, et les couvents Batchkovo, Saint Bessrebrenitzis, Sainte Paraskova et Saint Georges. Le quartier de la Sainte Vierge, dans la ville même de Philippopoli, entrera dans l'Exarchat Bulgare; mais ceux de ses habitants qui ne voudraient pas se soumettre à l'Eglise et à l'Exarchat Bulgare seront en tout cas libres.

Outre les pays qui viennent d'être énumérés et nom par nom indiqués, si les habitants Orthodoxes des autres contrées, tous, ou au moins les deux tiers, expriment le désir, dans leurs affaires spirituelles, de s'annexer à l'Exarchat Bulgare après un examen constatant la réalité de ce désir, il le leur sera permis.

Le premier alinéa de cet Article, contenant l'énumération des seize Eparchies, avec l'exception des villes et des villages Grecs ou supposés tels, copié du projet Patriarcal, indique jusqu'où celui-ci admettait l'extension territoriale de l'élément Bulgare. Le second alinéa de cet Article, visant l'annexion à l'Exarchat de toutes les Eparchies Bulgares de la Macédoine et de la Thrace a été inséré par la Porte, à l'insu de la Commission Gréco-Bulgare, qui avait élaboré le projet pour pousser le Patriarcat à rejeter le Firman et à proclamer l'Exarchat schismatique. C'est en 1871 que, grâce à Mahmoud Nedim Pacha, le premier alinéa concernant les Eparchies énumérées nom par nom a été mis en application, avec son successeur Mithad Pacha, la politique de la Porte changea au détriment de l'Exarchat. On considéra comme une faute politique la création de l'Eglise Bulgare, mais comme il était difficile de retirer le Firman, on prit la résolution d'en empêcher l'exécution. Dans l'espace de cinq ans d'efforts considérables, le seul succès de l'Exarchat a été d'avoir obtenu, sous le second Vizirat de Mahmoud Nedim Pacha, l'annexion, d'après le second alinéa de l'Article 10, des Eparchies d'Ohrida et de Scopia. Pour tout le reste ce n'était que des revers.

La Porte non-seulement ne voulut pas exécuter le second alinéa de l'Article 10; elle chercha à désorganiser même les Eparchies occupées, en essayant d'y réinstaller les Eveques Grecs précédemment chassés, en maintenant ceux qui s'y trouvaient, et en cherchant à leur créer des partisans, en voulant modifier le costume du clergé Bulgare pour rendre aux yeux du peuple le schisme visible, et en rendant la position des évêques Bulgares extrêmement précaire, les destituant sous les prétextes les plus futiles.

En jetant partout dans les Eparchies de l'Exarchat des noyaux Grecs, les hommes d'Etat Turcs, au moyen de ces dissolvants, enlevaient à l'hiérarchie Bulgare toute discipline, et par conséquent toute force. C'était deux autorités ecclésiastiques identiques avec la même juridiction sur les mêmes Chrétiens qui pouvaient à chaque instant reconnaître, tantôt l'une tantôt l'autre de ces autorités, pour échapper à la discipline ecclésiastique.

Dans l'espace de cinq ans, sur seize Métropolitains, six ont été destitués avant et cinq après la déclaration de la guerre, pour des riens.

L'Exarque a réclamé en vain, à plusieurs reprises, que les Evêques fussent traduits devant un Tribunal et qu'on prouvât leurs fautes.

L'Evêque de Pirote a été destitué pour avoir conseillé aux paysans de quelques villages, qui ne pouvaient pas obtenir du Caïmacam le changement d'un garde champêtre, sauvage Albanais, d'adresser une pétition directement au Gouvernement de Nich. L'Evêque de Vratza pour avoir prêché contre les parents abandonnant par lâcheté leurs filles aux zaptiés pour les prostituer et les faire Musulmanes, et pour avoir ainsi indirectement blâmé la conduite du Caïmacam de Vratza qui retenait une fille Bulgare dans son harem. L'Evêque (Vicaire) de Viddin pour s'être plaint de la mauvaise conduite des soldats dans la ville envers les Chrétiens. L'Evêque de Scopia pour une rancune personnelle de Midhat Pacha. L'évêque de Veless parce que sa présence y était un obstacle à la formation d'un parti Grec sous l'autorité du Patriarcat. Le second Evêque de Scopia, pour avoir refusé de livrer une église Bulgare à une vingtaine de partisans de l'Evêque Grec à Vrania, contrairement à la recommandation du Gouverneur de Nich. L'Evêque d'Ohrida pour avoir rendu l'Hellénisme et l'Evêque Grec impuissant dans son Eparchie. L'Evêque de Sophia pour avoir, sur l'ordre de l'Exarque et à la demande expresse du Grand Vizir, dénoncé les atrocités commises dans son éparchie depuis un mois. L'Evêque de Philippopoli, quoiqu'il vécut la plupart du temps à Constantinople, pour s'être rendu insupportable aux autorités locales, en défendant un peu chaleureusement les paysans opprimés. L'Evêque, son Vicaire, pour n'avoir pas voulu signer une pièce déclarant que les Bulgares vivent en frères avec les Turcs et espèrent que la Constitution est suffisante pour le bonheur des Chrétiens de l'Empire. Feu l'Evêque de Loftcha aurait été destitué s'il n'avait racheté par une somme d'argent son imprudence d'avoir écrit à Djevdet Pacha sur certains abus. Cet accident terrible a si fortement ébranlé sa faible santé qu'il en est mort quelques mois plus tard. Le vieux Evêque de Kustendil n'a pu se maintenir tranquillement dans son Eparchie qu'en versant une somme d'argent au Gouverneur de Sophia.

Tous ces Evêques destitués ne pouvant exercer d'autre profession et l'Exarchat n'étant pas en état de leur donner des pensions, étaient naturellement condamnés à mourir de chagrin et de misère. Quatre sont morts à Ortakeui; le même sort attendait les autres si la guerre n'était venue les délivrer de cette terrible situation. De toute cette conduite de la Sublime Porte, les Bulgares s'étaient convaincus qu'elle voulait faire mourir l'Exarchat. Le Premier Exarque lui-même a été destitué et exilé pour n'avoir pas voulu, sur l'invitation de Midhat Pacha, signer une déclaration que la Bulgarie est contente de l'administration de la Porte.

Néanmoins, aucun des Evêques n'a été ni conspirateur contre l'Etat, ni hostile à l'autorité du Sultan. On calomnie l'hiérarchie Bulgare quand on veut insinuer qu'elle a été pour quelque chose dans les insurrections. Les Comités existaient longtemps avant la promulgation du Firman, et des bandes armées avaient franchi le Danube en 1866-67 pour soulever la Bulgarie. En 1871, au moment où le Firman commençait à être mis à exécution et sans qu'il y eût encore des Evêques dans les provinces, un complot avait été découvert à Orhanié qui fit voir à la Porte que les Comités avaient travaillé la nation Bulgare depuis quelques années et que les affiliés des deux côtés des Balkans étaient de 4,000 à 5,000. La Porte avait donc des preuves que les Comités avaient pris racine en Bulgarie et avaient déjà partout des ramifications innombrables avant l'existence de l'Exarchat. Le peuple Bulgare avait passé quinze ans dans l'anarchie au point de vue ecclésiastique.

La Porte, au lieu de servir de l'hiérarchie Bulgare comme d'un excellent intermédiaire pour corriger les abus dans les provinces et introduire un ordre meilleur, lui a dès le début déclaré la guerre en provoquant contre lui le schisme pour empêcher son organisation. Le peuple, qui avait un moment espéré que par l'intermédiaire de l'hiérarchie nationale il trouverait quelque adoucissement à ses maux, six mois après l'arrivée des Evêques dans les Eparchies a perdu toute illusion, voyant combien ils étaient faibles et impuissants auprès des autorités locales pour pouvoir être utiles. L'Exarchat n'avait pas assez de temps pour combattre des intrigues sans cesse renaissantes et pour conserver sa hiérarchie d'une destruction complète. Son but était l'annexion des Eparchies Bulgares de la Macédoine et de la Thrace et la sanction de son règlement afin d'assurer son existence matérielle. Toute sa politique était là.

La faute de l'Exarchat aux yeux de la Porte a été d'avoir combattu le schisme, et à ceux de l'Administration Provinciale, d'avoir eu un cœur Bulgare sympathisant aux malheurs des paysans. Les représentations des Evêques au nom de la loi et de la justice déplaisaient souverainement aux autorités locales. L'Evêque ne se faisait pas complice des prévarications, des méfaits tyranniques des fonctionnaires, il en était la conscience. Tout était courbé, agenouillé, seul l'Evêque se tenait debout, et par ses

regards et sa présence, cet avocat naturel du peuple, dans les limites des lois méconnues inquiétait cette administration si vicieuse et corrompue. L'Exarchat n'a pas manqué dans son temps, à son devoir d'avertir plusieurs fois la Porte que le peuple était exaspéré des abus monstrueux qui pullulaient dans la province, et qu'il fallait prendre des mesures d'amélioration; la Porte, mal impressionnée par ces remarques, les prenait pour des menaces, tandis que les Grecs ne manquaient pas de dire chaque jour aux Pachas à Constantinople qu'ils avaient commis une faute en instituant l'Exarchat parce qu'il amènerait l'affranchissement politique des Bulgares.

Ainsi la Porte, fidèle à sa politique de division religieuse et de dissolution morale des populations Bulgares, ne trouvait pas l'Exarchat une institution utile pour l'Etat, et l'administration provinciale voyait dans les Evêques des censeurs tacites ou déclarés de leurs abus contre les lois, et trouvait leur présence gênante; aussi, toute en laissant au nom du schisme le clergé Grec se maintenir partout où il pouvait dans les Eparchies des Evêques Bulgares, la Porte refusa l'annexion à l'Exarchat des Eparchies dont les deux tiers au moins voulaient cette annexion, quoique, à vrai dire, la Porte n'avait pas même besoin d'observer ces conditions puisque le Patriarcat, contrairement au Firman, exerçait partout où il pouvait une juridiction ecclésiastique dans les Eparchies de l'Exarchat. Les choses en étaient là, lorsque les insurrections, les massacres, et la guerre sont venus en interrompre le cours.

Après les changements politiques survenus à la suite de la guerre, en dehors des territoires annexés à la Roumanie et à la Serbie, et en dehors de la principauté de la Bulgarie, l'Exarchat n'a sous sa juridiction ecclésiastique directe que la Roumélie Orientale en Thrace et les Eparchies de Veless, Ohrida, Scopia, la moitié de l'Eparchie de Kustendil, une partie de l'Eparchie de Samacof (retranchées d'après la délimitation de la Principauté), en Macédoine.

Toutes ces Eparchies et parties d'Eparchies en Macédoine, formant à peu près 500,000 d'habitants Bulgares, quoique sous la juridiction de l'Exarchat, n'ont pas d'Evêques.

Il y a trois mois l'Exarque est allé à Constantinople déclarer aux Ministres de la Porte que la partie du peuple Bulgare qui a été détachée de l'autorité directe du Sultan, sous le nom de Principauté de la Bulgarie, il la considère aussi comme détachée de sa juridiction ecclésiastique directe et que l'Exarchat, comme auparavant, reste à Constantinople pour la majorité du peuple Bulgare en Thrace et en Macédoine; il a demandé ensuite la permission d'envoyer dans les Eparchies vacantes d'Ohrida, Scopia, et Veless nos Evêques, ainsi que l'application graduelle du second alinéa de l'Article 10 du Firman.

Sans dire catégoriquement qu'elle refusera pour toujours, la Porte lui a opposé un refus poli. De sa conduite précédente il n'est pas difficile de conclure à ses sentiments et ses desseins pour l'avenir. Bien plus, on sait de sources certaines que l'intention de la Porte est, après l'évacuation de l'armée Russe et l'élection du Prince de la Bulgarie, de ne reconnaître l'Exarchat que dans le Principauté, c'est-à-dire là où il n'est pas en son pouvoir de ne pas le reconnaître.

Par quel moyen le Gouvernement de la Porte justifierait-il une pareille mesure, c'est ce que nous ne pouvons comprendre. Le Gouvernement du Sultan a institué l'Eglise Bulgare pour ses sujets Bulgares Orthodoxes; or dans la Thrace et dans la Macédoine, les Bulgares Orthodoxes restent les sujets du Sultan. Dans l'Empire Ottoman il y a cinq églises Orthodoxes parfaitement indépendantes: celles de Jérusalem, d'Antioche, d'Alexandrie, de Chypre, et de Constantinople. L'Exarchat peut bien être une sixième. Il a plus d'ouailles qu'aucune de ces Eglises, quoiqu'un tiers formant la Principauté ait été soustraite à sa juridiction directe. Entre l'Exarchat et la Principauté de Bulgarie il n'y aura d'autre solidarité que celle de la nationalité et de la religion, mais une telle solidarité existe aussi entre le Patriarcat de Constantinople et le royaume de Grèce, sans que pour cette raison la Porte ait jamais songé à soumettre ses sujets Grecs à un clergé Orthodoxe, ennemi de leur nationalité. Si elle dit qu'elle a créé l'Exarchat et qu'elle peut l'abolir, on peut lui répondre qu'elle a soumis un acte criminel en abolissant les anciennes églises Bulgares qu'elle n'avait pas créées. L'Archevêché d'Ohrida, crée du temps de l'Empereur Justinien, n'a été aboli qu'il y a 110 ans par le Gouvernement des Sultans. C'est pour réparer ce tort fait aux Bulgares que la Porte a créé l'Exarchat. Le Traité de Berlin est venu d'ailleurs garantir à toutes les communions la liberté dans leur organisation hiérarchique de reconnaître leur chef religieux. L'Exarchat est une communion, c'est-à-dire une église; par conséquent son existence est garantie par le Traité de Berlin.

Néanmoins, comme la Porte ne cède qu'à la force, si l'Exarchat ne se basait dans

ses réclamations que sur son droit, il se trouverait dans la même position qu'avant la guerre. Les Bulgares de la Thrace et de la Macédoine qui ne peuvent pas se soumettre à un clergé ennemi de leur nationalité, ni changer de religion, comme la Porte les violente depuis vingt ans, pour échapper au terrible dilemme dans lequel on le tient de changer de religion, pour rester Bulgares ou de cesser d'être Bulgares pour rester Orthodoxes, seront dans un mécontentement et une surexcitation continuels. La Porte ne voudrait pas qu'il y eût en Thrace et en Macédoine des Bulgares, mais puisqu'ils y sont, de même qu'elle ne peut pas les tuer, les chasser, enlever leurs biens, elle doit laisser leur hiérarchie nationale qui est la condition *sine qua non* de leur progrès moral et intellectuel, un des besoins les plus légitimes de leur existence. Elle devrait abandonner le vieux système, mais elle ne le fera pas. Les Grandes Puissances qui veulent introduire des réformes, qui assurent les droits les plus sacrés des Chrétiens en Turquie d'Europe, afin d'empêcher dans l'avenir la répétition des mêmes calamités, devraient assurer avec l'introduction des réformes administratives, les droits de l'Exarchat, et faire disparaître une des causes les plus profondes de la haine des Bulgares contre la politique infernale de la Porte à leur égard.

Philippopoli, le 12 *Février*, 1879.

No. 420.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 92.)

Philippopolis, March 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocol No. 38.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the financial discussion. It is necessary for me to establish in the most formal manner the hinderance and delay caused by the local authorities, by their unwillingness to comply with the Stipulations of Article XIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

This unwillingness has been so aggressive and manifested so frequently that it can be attributed only to one cause, viz., the desire to harass the Commission and to frustrate their labours. But for the constantly recurring discussions on financial subjects, together with the obstructive tactics of Prince Tzeretelew, our task might long ago have been concluded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 420.

Protocole No. 38.—*Séance du* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1879 (23 *Sepher*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha.
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 37, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Baron de Ring dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre VII qu'il a rédigé. Il propose de donner à ce Chapitre le No. VI et de le discuter avant le Chapitre sur les finances.

La Commission adopte.

M. Rozet donne lecture du Chapitre VI :—

"CHAPITRE II.—DES SUBDIVISIONS DE LA PROVINCE ET DE LEUR ADMINISTRATION.

"I.—*Divisions Administratives de la Province.*

"Article 1er. La Roumélie Orientale est divisée en six départements et en vingt et un cantons, conformément à la carte annexée au présent Statut.

"Les cantons sont divisés en communes urbaines et rurales, ayant chacune sa propre circonscription territoriale.

"Les communes urbaines sont celles qui ont été réputées telles dans le pays *ab antiquo*. Une commune rurale ne peut être érigée en commune urbaine que par une loi.

"Art. 2. Les six départements sont ceux de Philippopoli, de Tatar-Bazardjik, de Haskeui, d'Eski-Zaghra, de Slivno, et de Bourgas.

"Les vingt et un cantons sont ceux de Philippopoli (sud), de Philippopoli (nord), et de Rahova; de Tatar-Bazardjik, d'Ichtiman, de Panaguriehte et de Karlova; d'Eski-Zaghra, de Kézanlik, de Kalofer et de Tchirpan; de Slivno, de Yamboli, de Yéni-Zaghra, et de Kizil-Yénidjé; de Haskeui, de Harmanli et de Gabrova; de Bourgas, d'Aïdos, et de Karnabat.

"Art. 3. Les circonscriptions administratives de la Province, y compris celles des communes, ne peuvent être changées que par une loi.

"II.—*Du Département. Administration Départementale.*

"Art. 4. Le Département est administré par un Préfet assisté d'un Conseil de Préfecture, composé d'un Secrétaire de Préfecture et de deux Conseillers.

" Ces fonctionnaires sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

" Le Préfet prend l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture sur toutes les matières où l'avis de celui-ci est exigé par les lois et les règlements d'administration publique. Il peut en outre déférer à son examen toute affaire de son choix. Pourtant il est seul responsable de ses actes, que ceux-ci soient conformes ou non à l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture.

" Art. 5. Le Préfet représente le Gouverneur-Général dans le Département.

" Il peut prendre des Arrêtés, et prescrire des mesures obligatoires pour la totalité ou partie des habitants du département, en conformité des lois et règlements d'administration publique en vigueur dans la province ainsi que des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général.

" Il nomme ceux des fonctionnaires et employés qui lui sont subordonnés, dont la nomination n'est pas réservée au Gouverneur-Général ou au Bailli, ou qui ne sont pas électifs. Il est le Chef de la Police dans le département, et peut au besoin requérir la force publique.

" Il est chargé d'élever le conflit devant l'autorité judiciaire pour les affaires de la compétence de l'autorité administrative.

" Il rend exécutoires les rôles des contributions directes légalement dressés et arrêtés.

" Il exerce la tutelle administrative sur les communes et sur les établissements d'utilité publique non religieux, jouissant de la qualité de personne juridique et morale.

" Il accorde ou refuse son autorisation à la création d'établissements dangereux, incommodes, ou insalubres, sauf recours de l'impétrant au Gouverneur-Général, en cas de refus d'autorisation, et l'opposition des tiers intéressés devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

" Il ordonne la suspension des travaux de mines ou la fermeture d'une exploitation de mines lorsque des puits ou galeries ont été ouverts contrairement aux lois et règlements, sauf le même recours.

" Il frappe d'interdiction les moulins situés à la frontière de la province lorsqu'il est établi qu'ils servent à la contrebande des grains et farines. Pour ce cas, les parties se prétendant lésées ont un recours devant le Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux publics.

" Le Préfet statue en outre sur toutes les affaires départementales et communales énumérées dans les Tableaux A, B, C, D, annexés au présent Statut et généralement sur toutes les affaires départementales et communales qui ne sont pas réservées à la compétence du Gouverneur-Général de la province, du Conseil-Général du Département, de la Commission Départementale, ou des municipalités. Les Tableaux ci-dessus visés peuvent être modifiés par la législation provinciale.

" Art. 6. Le Préfet exécute les ordres des Administrateurs-Généraux de la province, dans la sphère de la compétence attribuée à ceux-ci; il correspond directement avec eux pour les affaires de leur ressort.

" Il transmet aux autorités inférieures les décisions, règlements, et instructions de l'autorité supérieure.

" Il prend des informations pour les Administrateurs-Généraux, leur donne son avis, leur fait des propositions.

" Il surveille la marche des divers services publics.

" Art. 7. Le Préfet met à exécution les délibérations du Conseil-Général du département ainsi que celles de la Commission Départementale, et provoque, en suivant les voies de droit, l'annulation des délibérations illégales de ces corps.

" Art. 8. Le Secrétaire de Préfecture est chargé de la surveillance des employés dans les bureaux du Préfet. Il est aussi chargé de l'enregistrement et de la conservation des pièces, de la signature des ampliations des actes administratifs, et des décisions du Conseil de Préfecture.

" Il remplit les fonctions de Bailli dans le canton du chef-lieu du département.

" Il peut recevoir du Préfet des délégations temporaires qui lui confèrent une partie de l'administration du département; ces délégations, pour avoir un caractère permanent, doivent être approuvées par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

" Le Secrétaire de Préfecture exerce auprès du Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif du département les fonctions de Commissaire du Gouvernement, et donne des conclusions dans les affaires contentieuses.

" Art. 9. Le Préfet, quand il s'absente du département, peut se faire représenter par le Secrétaire de Préfecture ou par un Conseiller de Préfecture à son choix.

" En cas de vacance du poste, le Préfet est remplacé intérimairement par le Secrétaire de Préfecture.

" Art. 10. Le Préfet peut déléguer un Conseiller de Préfecture pour le représenter dans certaines opérations administratives, lorsqu'il y est autorisé par une disposition législative ou réglementaire, et pour remplacer, s'il y a urgence, un Bailli en cas d'absence, d'empêchement, ou de vacance d'emploi.

" Art. 11. Il existe dans chaque département un Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

" Ce Tribunal est composé (1) de trois votants, savoir: un Juge au Tribunal du Département, désigné au commencement de chaque année pour la durée de celle-ci par la voie du sort, un Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale, choisi par le dite Assemblée pour deux ans, et le plus ancien des Conseillers de Préfecture; (2) de trois Assistants, savoir: un Juge Suppléant au Tribunal Civil du Département, ainsi qu'un Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale nommés comme les votants de leur catégorie respective, et le moins ancien des Conseillers de Préfecture.

" Le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif est présidé par le votant Juge, ou, à son défaut, par l'Assistant Juge ou Juge Suppléant. Les deux autres assistants suppléent les votants de la catégorie à laquelle ils appartiennent respectivement. En outre l'Assistant Conseiller de Préfecture est chargé de faire des rapports au Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif sur les affaires qui lui sont soumises; il est secondé dans cet office par un employé choisi à cet effet dans le personnel des bureaux de la Préfecture.

" Art. 12. Le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif statue sur les réclamations des collectivités ou des particuliers se prétendant lésés par un acte Administratif spécial ou par un fait particulier de l'Adminstration, et qui invoquent un droit acquis se rapportant à un intérêt de l'ordre Administratif.

" Il statue aussi sur les contestations entre l'Administration et les particuliers à raison de contrats ou marchés conclus et arrêtés par l'autorité publique dans le département.

" Art. 13. Les séances du Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif sont publiques.

" Art. 14. Tous les jugements rendus par le Tribunal Contentieux Administratif, hors les cas où il aurait statué comme Tribunal d'Appel en vertu de dispositions législatives ou réglementaires, sont susceptible d'être déférés en appel à la Cour Supérieure de Contentieux Administratif.

" Art. 15. Une loi provinciale déterminera les formes et les délais de la procédure devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif ainsi que les délais du recours à la Cour Supérieure de Contentieux Administratif.

" *Représentation Départementale.*

" Art. 16. Chaque département à un Conseil-Général, qui élit dans son sein une Commission Départementale.

" Ce Conseil se compose (1) de membres de droit, savoir: le Mufti en fonctions au chef-lieu du département, les chefs spirituels des communautés religieuses reconnues, qui y ont des églises ou des synagogues, le Président du Tribunal Civil du Département;

" (2) De membres électifs en nombre quintuple des cantons que comprend le département;

" (3) de membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général en nombre égal à celui des dits cantons.

" Les fonctions de Conseiller-Général sont gratuites.

" Art. 17. Pour être électeur départemental ou éligible au Conseil-Général, il faut remplir les conditions requises pour prendre part aux élections provinciales ou pour être nommé Membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

" Le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à prendre les Conseillers-Généraux qu'il a pouvoir de désigner dans les mêmes catégories de personnes que les membres qu'il a le droit d'envoyer à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

" Art. 18. Pour les élections au Conseil-Général les listes électorales sont dressées de la même manière que pour les élections à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

" Les pouvoirs des Conseillers-Généraux électifs sont vérifiés de la même manière que ceux des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

" Le bureau du Conseil-Général est formé suivant les mêmes règles que celui de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Art. 19. Le Conseil Général fait son règlement intérieur. Le Préfet et ses délégués ont entrée au Conseil; ils doivent être entendus sur leur demande. Les séances sont publiques, à moins que trois membres ne demandent le huis clos. Le Président a seul la police de l'Assemblée. Le Conseil Général doit tenir des procès-verbaux de ses séances.

"Toute délibération prise en dehors des séances prévues ou autorisées par la loi est de nul effet.

"Art. 20. Il n'y a pas incompatibilité entre les fonctions de Conseiller-Général et celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Une même personne ne peut pas être simultanément membre de deux Conseils Généraux; elle ne peut non plus représenter deux cantons au sein du même Conseil. Si elle est élue par deux ou plusieurs cantons, elle doit opter pour l'un d'eux.

"Art. 21. Les élections pour les Conseils Généraux ont lieu au scrutin de liste, de telle manière que chaque électeur ne peut inscrire sur son bulletin de vote, à peine de nullité, que les noms de quatre candidats.

"Art. 22. Les membres électifs des Conseils-Généraux sont élus pour quatre ans et pourront toujours être réélus. Le mandat des membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général a la même durée et peut aussi être indéfiniment renouvelé. Si un siége devient vacant avant l'époque normale, il doit y être pourvu à temps pour que le nouveau membre puisse siéger à la plus prochaine Session.

"Art. 23. Le Conseil Général peut être dissous par Décret du Gouverneur-Général délibéré en Conseil Privé.

"En cas de dissolution, il sera procédé, dans les deux mois, à de nouvelles élections.

"Art. 24. Les Conseils-Généraux tiennent par année deux Sessions ordinaires. La principale de ces Sessions, dans laquelle sont délibérés les budgets des départements, commence de plein droit, le premier Lundi de la seconde quinzaine du mois de Septembre (v. s.). L'ouverture de la seconde Session ordinaire a lieu au jour fixé par le Conseil-Général dans la Session du mois de Septembre précédent.

"La durée des Sessions ne peut dépasser quinze jours.

"Les Conseils Généraux peuvent encore être convoqués en Session extraordinaire par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

"Aux Sessions extraordinaires les délibérations des Conseils Généraux ne doivent pas dépasser l'objet qui leur a été assigné par l'Ordonnance de convocation.

"Art. 25. Les délibérations des Conseils Généraux peuvent être annulées pour motif d'incompétence. L'annulation est prononcée par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme des règlements d'administration publique.

"Art. 26. Les Conseils Généraux répartissent, chaque année, à leur Session de Septembre, les contributions directes conformément aux lois. Avant d'effectuer cette répartition, ils statuent sur les demandes délibérées par les Conseils Municipaux en réduction de contingent.

"Leurs autres attributions sont énumérées dans un Règlement Organique annexé au présent Chapitre et dont les dispositions pourront être modifiées par une loi provinciale.

"Art. 27. Tous vœux politiques sont interdits aux Conseils Généraux; néanmoins, ceux-ci peuvent émettre des vœux sur toutes les questions économiques d'administration générale.

"Art. 28. Les Chefs de service des Administrations publiques dans les départements sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient réclamés par les Conseils Généraux sur les questions intéressant les départements.

"Art. 29. Les départements sont représentés en justice par les Présidents de leurs Conseils Généraux, qui sont en même temps Présidents des Commissions Départementales. Ces Présidents font spontanément ou sur l'invitation des Préfets tous les actes conservatoires et interruptifs de prescription ou de déchéance relativement aux droits des départements.

"Art. 30. Toute action judiciaire contre un département, comme personne civile, doit être intentée contre le Président de son Conseil Général: copie certifiée de tous les actes de procédure doit être, à peine de nullité, remise au Préfet.

"Art. 31. A la Session de Septembre, le Préfet rend compte au Conseil Général par un rapport détaillé de la situation du département et de l'état des différents services publics. A l'autre Session ordinaire, il lui présente un rapport sur les affaires qui doivent lui être soumises pendant cette Session.

"Art. 32. Le projet du budget du département est préparé par le Préfet, qui est

tenu de le communiquer à la Commission Départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui, dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Le budget délibéré par le Conseil Général est définitivement réglé par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

"Si un Conseil Général omet d'inscrire au budget un crédit suffisant pour l'acquittement des dépenses mises à sa charge par la loi, telles que celles du casernement de la gendarmerie, de l'entretien des prisons, &c., ou pour l'acquittement de dettes exigibles, ce crédit y est inscrit d'office par le Gouverneur-Général. Aucun autre crédit ne peut être inscrit d'office au budget d'un département.

"Art. 33. Le Conseil Général entend et débat les comptes de l'Administration qui lui sont présentés par le Préfet, concernant les recettes et les dépenses du budget départemental. Ces comptes doivent être communiqués à la Commission Départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Les observations du Conseil Général sur les comptes présentés à son examen, sont adressées directement par son Président au Gouverneur-Général. Ces comptes, provisoirement arrêtés par le Conseil Général, le sont définitivement par une Ordonnance rendue en la forme des règlements d'administration publique.

"Art. 34. Les budgets et comptes apurés des départements sont publiés par la voie de la presse.

"Art. 35. La Commission Départementale se compose de trois membres. Elle est présidée de droit par le Président du Conseil Général. Ses deux autres membres remplissent à tour de rôle les fonctions de Secrétaire.

"Les membres de la Commission Départementale ne reçoivent aucune allocation ou indemnité.

"En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement d'un des membres, il est remplacé provisoirement par le plus âgé des Conseillers Généraux, qui se trouvent au chef-lieu du département. La Commission Départementale est élue pour un an dans la Session du mois de Septembre. Elle se réunit au moins une fois par mois. Les fonctions de membre de la Commission Départementale sont incompatibles avec celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Art. 36. Le Préfet ou son représentant assiste aux séances; il doit être entendu sur sa demande.

"Les Chefs des services administratifs dans le département sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient demandés par la Commission Départementale sur les affaires placées dans ses attributions.

"Un règlement d'administration publique déterminera le fonctionnement des Commissions Départementales.

"Art. 37. La Commission Départementale règle les affaires qui lui sont renvoyées par le Conseil Général dans les limites de la délégation qui lui est faite.

"Elle délibère sur toutes les questions qui lui sont déférées par une loi, et elle donne son avis au Préfet sur toutes questions qu'il lui soumet ou sur lesquelles elle croit devoir appeler son attention dans l'intérêt du département.

"Art. 38. La Commission Départementale prend connaissance de la comptabilité du département. Le Préfet est tenu de lui adresser chaque mois l'état détaillé des mandats de paiement qu'il a délivrés le mois précédent, concernant la comptabilité départementale.

"Art. 39. A l'ouverture de chaque Session ordinaire du Conseil Général, la Commission Départementale lui fait un rapport sur l'ensemble de ses travaux, et lui soumet des propositions. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre, elle lui soumet un rapport sur le budget proposé par le Préfet.

"Art. 40. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre, la Commission Départementale présente au Conseil Général le relevé de tous les emprunts communaux et de toutes les contributions extraordinaires communales qui ont été votés depuis la Session de Septembre précédente, avec indication de toutes les dettes et impositions extraordinaires qui grèvent chaque commune.

"Art. 41. La Commission Départementale, après avoir entendu l'avis ou les propositions du Préfet: (1) répartit les subventions diverses portées au budget départemental et dont le Conseil Général ne s'est pas réservé la distribution; (2) détermine l'ordre de priorité des travaux à la charge du département, lorsque cet ordre n'a pas été fixé par le Conseil Général; (3) fixe l'époque et le mode d'adjudication des emprunts départementaux, lorsqu'ils n'ont pas été fixés par le Conseil Général; (4) fixe l'époque de l'adjudication des travaux d'utilité départementale.

"Art. 42. La Commission Départementale vérifie l'état des archives et celui du mobilier appartenant au département.

"Art 43. La Commission Départementale peut charger un de ses membres d'une mission relative à des objets compris dans ses attributions.

"Art. 44. En cas de désaccord entre la Commission Départementale et le Préfet, l'affaire peut être renvoyée à la plus prochaine Session du Conseil Général, lequel statuera définitivement. En cas de conflit entre les deux pouvoirs, comme aussi dans le cas où la Commission aurait outrepassé ses attributions, le Conseil Général sera immédiatement convoqué et statuera sur les faits qui lui auront été soumis. Le Conseil Général pourra, s'il le juge convenable, procéder dès lors à la nomination d'une nouvelle Commission Départementale.

"Art. 45. Les membres des Conseils Généraux peuvent être désignés par le Préfet pour remplacer provisoirement un Bailli.

"Art. 46. Toutes matières d'utilité Départementale comprises dans les attributions des Conseils Généraux sont réglées par l'Assemblée Provinciale du moment qu'elles intéressent à la fois deux ou plusieurs départements. L'Assemblée Provinciale statue dans ce cas comme un Conseil Général, de telle sorte que pour avoir force exécutoire sa décision n'a pas besoin d'être sanctionnée par le Sultan, mais simplement publiée par le Gouverneur-Général.

"III.— *Du Canton.*

"Art. 47. Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'une Administration départementale, un Bailli, nommé par le Gouverneur Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, et placé sous l'autorité du Préfet, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'Administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit par l'autorité supérieure, soit par le Préfet dans la limite de sa compétence.

"Il prépare l'instruction des affaires administratives qui doivent être soumises à la décision de l'autorité supérieure ou du Préfet.

"Il est le Chef de la police dans le canton.

"Il a mission de prendre, au point de vue de la sécurité publique, toutes les mesures d'ordre que les circonstances lui paraissent comporter. Il peut, à cet effet, dans les cas urgents, requérir des officiers commandant la gendarmerie et la milice dans le canton le rassemblement de plusieurs brigades ou détachements, à la charge d'en informer sur le champ le Préfet.

"Il exerce les attributions spéciales qui lui sont conférées par les lois et règlements d'administration publique provinciaux.

"Art. 48. Il y a dans tout chef-lieu de canton et dans toute ville comptant plus de 4,000 âmes un Commissaire de Police qui est l'auxiliaire du Bailli, pour les affaires concernant la police générale, et du Maire, pour les affaires concernant la police municipale et rurale.

"Art. 49. L'autorité du Commissaire de Police du chef-lieu du canton s'étend à tout le canton. Celle du Commissaire de Police établi dans une autre ville au rayon placé sous sa surveillance par le Bailli.

"Art. 50. Les droits et les devoirs des Commissaires de Police ainsi que leurs relations de service avec la gendarmerie, sont réglés par une loi provinciale.

"IV.—*Des Communes. De la Commune Urbaine.*

"Art. 51. Dans chaque commune urbaine il y a un Maire assisté d'un, deux, ou de trois Adjoints, et un Conseil Municipal.

"Les villes dont la population est inférieure à 2,000 âmes ont un Adjoint; celles comptant de 2,000 à 10,000 âmes en ont deux; celles dont la population dépasse 10,000 âmes en ont trois.

"Art. 52. Dans les villes, chefs-lieux de département, ou de canton, le Maire et les Adjoints sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général; dans les autres villes ils sont nommés par le Préfet. Ils doivent être choisis parmi les membres du Conseil Municipal. Leurs fonctions sont gratuites. Toutefois il est loisible aux Conseils Municipaux de leur allouer, avec l'assentiment du Préfet, des frais de service et de représentation.

"Art. 53. Ne peuvent être Maires ou Adjoints, ni en remplir intérimairement les fonctions administratives à titre de Conseillers Municipaux:—

(1.) Les Ministres des cultes;

"(2.) Les fonctionnaires publics rétribués et les agents salariés de l'Administration Municipale;

"(3.) Les fermiers des revenus communaux;

"(4.) Les entrepreneurs de travaux communaux;

"(5.) Les militaires en activité de service ou en disponibilité.

"Art. 54. Les Conseils Municipaux se composent de onze membres au moins, et de vingt-cinq au plus, selon le chiffre de la population des différentes communes.

"Ces membres sont élus pour trois ans par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales, et qui sont nés dans la commune, ou qui, s'ils sont nés ailleurs, résident obligatoirement dans la commune en qualité, soit de fonctionnaire public, soit de ministre d'un culte reconnu, ou qui y ont établi leur domicile depuis plus d'un an au moment de leur inscription sur les dites listes électorales, ou enfin qui se sont mariés dans la commune et y résidaient depuis plus d'un an lors de leur inscription.

"Art. 55. Les fonctions de Conseiller Municipal sont incompatibles avec celles d'Administrateur-Général de la province, de Préfet, de Bailli, et de Commissaire de Police.

"Nul ne peut être Conseiller Municipal de plusieurs communes à la fois.

"Art. 56. Pour les élections municipales, les électeurs sont distribués en un nombre de sections électorales égal à celui des Conseillers à élire. Toute communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte ainsi qu'une école, a droit à un Conseiller Municipal, et doit par conséquent être formée en section électorale. Si elle comprend un nombre d'électeurs double du quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers Municipaux à élire, elle a droit à deux Conseillers Municipaux, et doit être formée en deux sections électorales. Si le nombre des électeurs dont elle dispose contient trois ou un plus grand nombre de fois le chiffre d'électeurs donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal, elle nomme un nombre proportionné de Conseillers Municipaux, et doit à cet effet être formée en un nombre proportionné de sections électorales. Il n'est pas tenu compte d'une fraction du quotient donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal.

"Les membres de toute communauté religieuse qui ne possède pas dans la commune un édifice pour son culte et une école, sont adjoints individuellement à la section électorale de leur choix.

"La répartition des citoyens entre les diverses sections électorales est opérées par les soins de la Commission Municipale chargée de dresser les listes électorales de concert avec les Chefs des communautés religieuses.

"Il doit être, autant que possible, tenu compte de la commodité des électeurs et par conséquent les sections doivent être tracées de manière à coïncider approximativement avec les différents quartiers.

"Toute section a une liste électorale distincte et permanente, laquelle doit être révisée annuellement. Cette liste est dressée et révisée par la Commission Municipale déjà citée, de concert avec le Chef de la communauté.

"Si pour les opérations dont ils sont chargés en commun, un différend s'élève entre la Commission Municipale et le Chef d'une communauté, celui-là est tranché par le Bailli.

"Toute personne qui se prétend indûment omise sur une liste électorale municipale peut réclamer son inscription ainsi qu'il est dit au règlement concernant les élections provinciales.

"Les listes électorales municipales sont conservées, publiées, et affichées comme les listes électorales provinciales.

"Les opérations électorales municipales ont lieu d'après les règles qui régissent les opérations pour la nomination des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale. Elles ont lieu le même jour et à la même heure dans toutes les sections électorales de la même commune.

"Art. 57. Si la validité de l'élection d'un Conseiller Municipal est contestée par plus de dix électeurs de sa commune, la question est portée devant le Tribunal du Département, qui la tranche d'après les règles imposées à la Cour Supérieure de Justice pour la vérification des pouvoirs des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Art. 58. Le Conseil Municipal a par an quatre Sessions ordinaires, commençant le premier Lundi des mois de Février, de Mai, d'Août, et d'Octobre. Chacune d'elles peut durer dix jours.

"Dans le cas ou le Conseil n'a pas terminé des affaires qui ne souffrent point de retard, ou si les intérêts de la commune exigent que le Conseil se réunisse dans l'intervalle d'une Session ordinaire à une autre, le Bailli peut autoriser le Maire,

sur la demande de ce dernier, à convoquer le Conseil, ou même prescrire spontanément cette mesure. La convocation extraordinaire peut aussi avoir lieu pour un objet spécial et déterminé sur la demande d'un quart des membres du Conseil Municipal adressée directement au Bailli, qui ne peut la refuser que par une décision motivée. Cette décision est notifiée aux réclamants, qui peuvent se pourvoir devant le Préfet.

"Toute convocation extraordinaire du Conseil Municipal doit être notifiée à ses membres trois jours à l'avance et à domicile.

"Art. 59. Tout Conseiller Municipal qui, sans motif légitime, manque à trois convocations successives, peut, sur la demande de ses collègues, être déclaré démissionnaire par le Bailli. Il est en droit de recourir contre cette décision auprès du Préfet.

"Art. 60. En cas de vacance d'un siége au Conseil Municipal, il y est pourvu dans le délai d'un mois.

"Art. 61. Le Maire est de droit Président du Conseil Municipal, excepté dans les séances où les comptes de son Administration sont débattus.

"A défaut du Maire ou d'un Adjoint qui le remplace, le Conseil est présidé par celui de ses membres présents qui a obtenu le plus de suffrages lors de l'élection.

"A la première séance de chaque Session, les Conseillers Municipaux nomment entre eux, au scrutin secret, un Secrétaire dont les fonctions durent jusqu'au terme de la Session.

"Les séances du Conseil Municipal ne sont pas publiques.

"Art. 62. Le Conseil Municipal ne peut délibérer que si la majorité de ses membres en exercice est présente.

"Les résolutions sont prises à la majorité absolue des suffrages exprimés. En cas de partage, la voix du Maire ou de l'Adjoint qui le remplace est prépondérante.

"Il est voté au scrutin secret toutes les fois que trois des membres présents le réclament.

"Art. 63. Le Maire préside à l'administration de la commune, sous la surveillance du Bailli et du Préfet:

"A ce titre il est chargé:

"(1.) De la police et de la voirie municipale et rurale, ainsi que de pourvoir à l'exécution des actes de l'autorité supérieure qui ont trait à ces branches du service public;

"(2.) De la conservation et de l'administration des propriétés de la commune et de faire, en conséquence, tous actes conservatoires des droits d'icelle;

"(3.) De la gestion des revenus communaux, de la surveillance des établissements communaux, et de la comptabilité communale;

"(4.) De la proposition du budget et de l'ordonnancement des dépenses;

"(5.) De la direction des travaux communaux;

"(6.) De souscrire des marchés, de passer les baux des biens et les adjudications des travaux communaux;

"(7.) De souscrire les actes de vente, échange, partage, acceptation de dons ou legs, transaction, lorsque ces actes ont été régulièrement autorisés;

"(8.) De représenter la commune en justice, soit comme demanderesse, soit comme défenderesse;

"(9.) De surveiller les écoles établies et entretenues aux frais de la commune;

"Le tout en se conformant aux lois, règlements, et Ordonnances provinciaux, aux Arrêtés préfectoraux, et aux délibérations du Conseil Municipal régulièrement prises.

"Art. 64. Le Maire nomme et révoque les employés de ses bureaux. Les autres agents municipaux sont élus par le Conseil Municipal et ne peuvent être révoqués par le Maire que sur l'avis conforme du Conseil Municipal.

"Art. 65. Le Maire, comme agent de l'autorité supérieure, est chargé:

"(1.) De la publication des lois, des règlements d'administration publique, des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général, des Arrêtés du Préfet, ainsi que de tous actes de l'Administration destinés à être publiés;

"(2.) De l'exécution des lois et règlements provinciaux, des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général, et des Arrêtés préfectoraux;

"(3.) De l'exécution des mesures de sûreté générale ordonnées par l'Administration Centrale de la Province, par le Préfet, ou par le Bailli;

"(4.) De la publication des rôles d'impôt;

"(5.) De dresser les Tableaux de recensement des jeunes gens appelés à être enrôlés dans la milice;

"(6.) Des fonctions spéciales à lui attribuées par les lois et règlements provinciaux.

"Art. 66. Le Maire peut déléguer à un ou plusieurs de ses Adjoints une partie de ses fonctions, et, en l'absence de tous Adjoints, à ceux des Conseillers Municipaux appelés à en faire les fonctions.

"En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement du Maire, son autorité passe, de plein droit, à l'un des Adjoints, suivant l'ordre des nominations. Si les Adjoints sont absents ou empêchés en même temps que le Maire, ce fonctionnaire est remplacé par le Conseiller Municipal inscrit le premier sur le Tableau qui doit être dressé d'après le nombre de suffrages obtenus et suivant l'ordre des scrutins.

"Art. 67. Dans le cas où le Maire refuse ou néglige de faire un des actes qui lui sont prescrits par la loi, le Préfet, après l'en avoir requis, peut y procéder d'office par lui-même ou par un délégué spécial.

"Art. 68. Le Maire procède par Arrêtés réglementaires ou individuels. Les premiers doivent être communiqués au Bailli, qui en accuse réception au Maire; ils ne sont d'ailleurs obligatoires qu'autant qu'ils ont été publiés. Les seconds n'ont pas besoin d'être publiés et deviennent obligatoires dès qu'ils ont été notifiés aux parties intéressées.

"Les Arrêtés réglementaires permanents ne sont exécutoires qu'un mois après la date du récépissé délivré par le Bailli. Passé ce mois, ils ne peuvent plus être annulés par l'autorité supérieure. Les Arrêtés réglementaires temporaires sont exécutoires immédiatement. Mais l'autorité supérieure conserve toujours la faculté de les annuler sous la réserve des droits des tiers.

"Art. 69. Le Conseil Municipal règle le mode de jouissance, d'administration, et d'exploitation des biens de la commune ainsi que la gestion de ses revenus, sauf la nécessité de l'approbation du Préfet dans les cas déterminés par les lois provinciales.

"Il vote les aliénations, acquisitions, partages de biens de toute espèce à faire par ou pour le compte de la commune.

"Il vote les taxes et contributions municipales dans les limites déterminées par les lois provinciales. Il vote aussi les emprunts municipaux.

"Il règle le Tarif des droits de place à percevoir dans les halles, foires, et marches, ainsi que les droits à percevoir pour permis de stationnement et de location sur les rues, places, et autres lieux dépendant du domaine public municipal.

"Il arrête le budget municipal dans lequel figurent obligatoirement des dépenses déterminées par les lois provinciales.

"Il vérifie et arrête les comptes d'administration municipale.

"Il décide, sauf approbation par l'autorité supérieure, la création ou l'extension de tout établissement d'utilité publique communale, (école, gymnase, lavoir, etc.) au moyen de ressources pécuniaires assurées, soit par des fonds disponibles, soit par l'augmentation des revenus municipaux.

"Il décide des projets, plans, et devis de grosses réparations des immeubles appartenant à la commune.

"Il délibère:

"Sur le percement et l'alignement des rues et places, et sur leur pavage et éclairage, sur la création et bentretien de boulevards et de jardins publics, sur les conduites d'eau, égouts, fosses, digues et ponts appartenant à la ville, et généralement sur tout ce qui concerne la voirie municipale;

"Sur les actions judiciaires dans lesquelles la commune est engagée;

"Sur les transactions et sur tous les contrats ou marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de la commune.

"Art. 70. Les délibérations du Conseil Municipal sont inscrites par ordre de date sur un registre *ad hoc*, côté et paraffé par le Bailli. Tous les membres signent sur la minute et, si quelques-uns sont empêchés, mention est faite des causes pour lesquelles ils n'ont pas signé.

"Les membres qui ne sont pas de l'avis de la majorité qui a voté la délibération peuvent faire mentionner à la suite de celle-ci leur vote séparé.

"Copie de chaque délibération est adressée dans la huitaine au Bailli, qui la transmet dans une autre huitaine au Préfet.

"Art. 71. L'année budgétaire communale coïncide avec celle de la province.

"Art. 72. Le budget communal est proposé par le Maire au Conseil Municipal au moment de la Session ordinaire de Février.

"Si le budget ne prévoit pas une ou plusieurs dépenses obligatoires pour la commune, le Préfet les y inscrit d'office. En cas d'insuffisance des ressources ordinaires de la commune pour couvrir les dites dépenses, ce fonctionnaire doit pourvoir à icelles en proposant au Gouverneur-Général d'imposer à la commune une contribution extraordinaire. Le Gouverneur-Général, après avoir consulté son

Conseil Privé, établit cette contribution par une Ordonnance rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

"Les décisions du Conseil Municipal concernant des dépenses facultatives sont irréformables.

"Art. 73. Si le Conseil Municipal vote une taxe en violation d'une loi provinciale ou d'une délibération du Conseil Général, le Préfet annule cette délibération du Conseil Municipal; il annule de même l'Article du budget des recettes où figure le produit d'une telle taxe.

"Si le Conseil Municipal estime que dans son Arrêté le Préfet a mal interprété la loi ou la délibération du Conseil Général visée par lui, il se pourvoit devant le Gouverneur General, qui tranche le différend après avoir consulté son Conseil Privé, ainsi que la Commission Permanente de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Art. 74. Les comptes d'administration du Maire sont débattus par le Conseil Municipal et approuvés par le Préfet.

"Les comptes de deniers du Receveur Municipal sont soumis au Contrôleur-Général des Finances.

"Art. 75. Le Maire peut, pour le compte d'une année budgétaire, ordonnancer les paiements jusqu'au 15 Mai de l'année suivante; les paiements peuvent être faits jusqu'au 31 Mai, époque de la clôture de l'exercice.

"Art. 76. Les Conseils Municipaux élisent les Commissions chargées de répartir entre les citoyens, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de répartition ainsi que les taxes départementales et municipales.

"Art. 77. Les Conseils Municipaux donnent à l'Administration des avis relativement à toutes les questions sur lesquelles ils sont consultés. Ils expriment des vœux sur toutes les affaires d'intérêt local.

"Art. 78. Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être suspendus par Arrêté Préfectoral pour une durée de deux mois. Dans ce cas leurs fonctions sont remplies par une Commission Municipale de cinq à dix membres, suivant l'importance de la commune.

"Ces membres sont nommés par le Préfet et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général.

"Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être dissous par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans ce cas c'est à ce dignitaire qu'il appartient de nommer lui-même la Commission Municipale. L'Ordonnance de dissolution indique l'époque à laquelle il doit être procédé à de nouvelles élections; cette époque ne peut pas être reculée de plus d'un an.

"*De la Commune Rurale.*

"Art. 79. Dans chaque commune rurale dont les habitants appartiennent tous à la même communauté religieuse, il y a un Chef assisté d'un Mouktar, lesquels sont chargés de la police municipale. Ces Magistrats ont pour mission de sauvegarder les intérêts collectifs de la commune ainsi que de faire connaître au Bailli et, si besoin est, au Préfet, les vœux et les réclamations des habitants.

"Ils sont, au même titre que les Maires et Adjoints des communes, les agents de l'autorité, et doivent se conformer aux instructions du Bailli, sauf recours au Préfet.

"Art. 80. Dans les communes rurales dont les habitants appartiennent à deux ou plusieurs communautés il y a autant de Chefs et de Mouktars que de communautés.

"Chacune de celles-ci élit à part son Chef et son Mouktar.

"Art. 81. Les Chefs ainsi que les Mouktars sont élus pour un an par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

"Sont seuls éligibles comme Chefs et comme Mouktars ceux des dits électeurs qui sont âgés de 30 ans au moins et ne se trouvent dans aucun des cas d'incapacité énumérés à l'Article 54.

"Les Chefs et les Mouktars sortants sont toujours rééligibles, sauf les cas prévus à l'Article suivant.

"L'élection des Chefs et des Mouktars se fait le. . . Elle est immédiatement portée à la connaissance du Bailli.

"Art. 82. Les Chefs et les Mouktars sont destitués par le Préfet pour indignité s'ils viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent être destitués en cas de manquement à leurs devoirs comme mandataires de l'autorité supérieure, ou sur la plainte d'une des communautés religieuses de leur commune. Leurs destitution doit dans ces deux derniers cas être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Bailli.

"L'Arrêté de destitution convoquera dans les dix jours les électeurs de la commune à l'effet de procéder au choix d'un nouveau Chef ou d'un nouveau Mouktar. Le Chef ou le Mouktar destitué pour cause d'indignité ne pourra être réélu, à moins

qu'à l'expiration de sa peine, ou à la cessation de sa peine, s'il est gracié, il n'obtienne du Gouverneur-Général des lettres de relief. Si le Chef ou le Mouktar a été destitué pour manquement à ses devoirs comme mandataire de l'autorité supérieure, il peut être réélu après cinq ans avec l'assentiment du Bailli. S'il a été destitué sur la plainte du Conseil ou d'un des Conseils des Anciens de sa commune, il peut être réélu de plein droit.

"Art. 83. Pour chaque communauté religieuse existant dans la commune rurale, il y a un Conseil des Anciens dont les membres sont au nombre de quatre au moins et de douze au plus, suivant l'importance de la commune.

"Les Imams et les Chefs religieux des communautés non-Musulmanes sont de droit membres des Conseils du leurs communautés respectives.

"Les autres membres, qui doivent être âgés de 30 ans au moins, sont élus pour un an par les membres de leurs communautés respectives inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

"Ils sont indéfiniment rééligibles.

"Art. 84. S'il y a lieu de pourvoir au remplacement d'un Chef, d'un Mouktar, ou d'un membre du Conseil des Anciens avant l'expiration de l'année pour laquelle il avait été élu, les électeurs se réunissent en Assemblée extraordinaire pour procéder a une nouvelle élection, qui n'a d'effet que jusqu'à la fin de la dite année.

"Art. 85. Les Conseils des Anciens délibèrent:—

"1. Sur les questions relatives à la construction et à l'entretien des édifices, fontaines, puits, citernes, lavoirs, conduites d'eau, égouts, fosses, cimetières, écoles, établissements de charité, etc., appartenant aux communautés religieuses qu'ils représentent;

"2. Sur les questions relatives à la voirie, à la salubrité publique, et aux intérêts de l'agriculture;

"3. Sur les aliénations, acquisitions, et partages des biens, ainsi que sur les contrats et marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de leurs communautés respectives.

"Ils votent, dans les limites des lois et règlements, et répartissent, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les taxes et contributions à établir dans l'intérêt de leurs communautés.

"Art. 86. Les matières (édilité, voirie, agriculture, etc.) énumérées à l'Article précédent, qui touchent aux intérêts collectifs d'une commune rurale mixte, sont discutées et réglées par les Conseils des Anciens, réunis sous la présidence du plus ancien des Chefs.

"Art. 87. Le Conseil unique des Anciens ou les Conseils réunis règlent le mode de jouissance des bois, pâturages, et autres biens appartenant à la commune rurale.

"Ils nomment et révoquent ses gardes champêtres et forestiers.

"Ils répartissent, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de repartition de la province ainsi que les taxes départementales et communales.

"Ils votent le budget de la commune, lequel, pour la régularité des écritures, doit être dressé par un employé, à ce délégué, de l'Administration des Finances.

"Art. 88. Toute délibération tendant à grever une commune rurale ou une de ses communautés d'une charge à laquelle il ne pourrait être fait face qu'au moyen de centimes additionnels aux impôts et taxes payés à la province ou au département, ou au moyen d'une taxe locale spéciale, a besoin d'être approuvée par le Bailli.

"La même règle s'applique aux délibérations ayant pour objet des aliénations, acquisitions, ou partages de biens pour le compte d'une commune ou d'une communauté.

"Art. 89. Les contestations entre communautés d'une même commune sont résolues à l'amiable par les soins d'un Conseil mixte composé de six ou de douze Anciens, élus *ad hoc* par les communautés contestantes.

"Les membres de ce Conseil de paix sont pris a nombre égal dans les communautés respectives.

"Ils siégent sous la présidence du plus âgé des Chefs.

"En cas d'insuccès d'une pareille tentative de conciliation, le différend est porté, s'il s'agit d'une question de propriété, devant la justice civile, s'il s'agit d'une question de contentieux administratif, devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

"La même procédure s'applique aux contestations entre deux ou plusieurs communes, avec cette différence que le Conseil de paix est dans ce cas préside par le Bailli ou par un délégué de ce fonctionnaire."

Annexés au Chapitre VI.

Attributions des Préfets des Départements.

(Tableaux visés par l'Article 5 du Chapitre VI.)

Tableau A.

1. Affectation d'une propriété départementale à un service d'utilité départementale, lorsque cette propriété n'est déjà affectée à aucun service;
2. Contrats à passer pour l'assurance des bâtiments départementaux;
3. Projets, plans, et devis de travaux exécutés sur les fonds du département;
4. Adjudication de ces travaux;
5. Adjudication des emprunts départementaux dans les limites fixées par les lois d'autorisation;
6. Achat, sur les fonds départementaux, d'ouvrages administratifs destinées aux bibliothèques des préfectures et bailliages;
7. Distribution d'indemnités ordinaires et extraordinaires allouées sur le budget départementale aux ingénieurs des ponts et chaussées;
8. Transfèrement des détenus d'une prison dans une autre du même département;
9. Congés, n'excédant pas quinze jours, aux employés des prisons;
10. Règlements intérieurs des dépôts de mendicité;
11. Autorisation de transporter un corps d'un département dans un autre département ou à l'étranger;
12. Congés, n'excédant pas quinze jours, aux Commissaires de Police;
13. Révision des budgets et comptes des communes, lorsque ces budgets ne donnent pas lieu à des impositions extraordinaires;
14. Approbation des conditions des souscriptions à ouvrir et des Traités de gré à gré à passer pour la réalisation des emprunts des villes autres que le chef-lieu du département;
15. Approbation des aliénations, acquisitions, échanges, partages de biens de toute espèce faits par les communes quelle que soit la nature de ces opérations;
16. Homologation des dons et legs de toute sorte de biens faits aux communes et aux bureaux de bienfaisance, lorsqu'il y a réclamation des familles, quand la valeur du don ou de legs excède £ T. 100;
17. Approbation des transactions faites par les communes sur toutes sortes de biens qu'elle qu'en soit la valeur;
18. Fixation de la durée des enquêtes pour les travaux de construction de chemin vicinaux de grande communication ou de ponts à péage situé sur ces voies publiques, quand ils n'intéressent que les communes du même département;
19. Règlement des indemnités pour dommages résultant d'extraction de matériaux destinés à la construction des chemins vicinaux de grande communication
20. Règlement des frais d'expertise mis à la charge de l'Administration, notamment en matière de subventions spéciales pour dégrations extraordinaires causées aux chemins vicinaux de grande communication;
21. Secours aux agents des chemins vicinaux de grande communication;
22. Gratifications aux mêmes agents;
23. Affectation du fonds départemental à des achats d'instruments où à des dépenses d'impressions spéciales pour les chemins vicinaux de grande communication;

Tableau B.

1. Autorisation d'ouvrir des foires et marchés;
2. Réglementation complète de la boucherie, boulangerie, et vente de comestibles sur les foires et marchés;
3. Primes pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles;
4. Réglementation des frais de traitement des épizooties;
5. Examen et approbation des règlements de police communale pour les foires, marchés, ports, et autres lieux publics;
6. Autorisation des établissements insalubres dans les formes déterminées pour cette nature d'établissements;

7. Autorisation de fabrique et ateliers dans le rayon des douanes, sur l'avis conforme du Directeur des Douanes;
8. Autorisation de fabriques d'eaux minérales artificielles;
9. Autorisation de dépots d'eaux minérales naturelles ou artificielles.

Tableau C.

1. Cession de terrains domaniaux compris dans le tracé des routes provinciales, départementales et des chemins vicinaux;
2. Echange des terrains provenant de déclassement de routes;
3. Concessions de servitudes sur les propriétés de la province et du département, à titre précaire.

Tableau D.

1. Autorisation, sur les cours d'eau navigables ou flottables, des prises d'eau faites au moyen de machines, et qui, eu égard au volume du cours d'eau, n'auraient pas pour effet d'en altérer sensiblement le régime;
2. Autorisation des établissements temporaires sur les dits cours d'eau alors même qu'ils auraient pour effet de modifier le régime ou le niveau des eaux;
3. Autorisation, sur les cours d'eau non navigables, ni flottables de tout établissement nouveau, tel que moulin, usine, barrage, prise d'eau, irrigation, patouillet, bocard, lavoir à mines;
4. Régularisation de l'existence des dits établissements lorsqu'ils ne sont pas encore pourvus d'autorisation régulière, ou modifications des règlements déjà existants;
5. Dispositions pour assurer le curage et le bon entretien des cours d'eau non navigables ni flottables; réunion, s'il y a lieu, des propriétaires intéressés en associations syndicales;
6. Répartition entre l'industrie et l'agriculture des eaux des cours d'eau non navigables ni flottables;
7. Constitution en associations syndicales des propriétaires intéressés à l'exécution et à l'entretien des travaux d'endiguement contre la mer, les fleuves, rivières et torrents navigables ou non navigables, de canaux d'arrosage ou de canaux de desséchement, lorsque ces propriétaires sont d'accord pour l'exécution des dits travaux et la répartition des dépenses;
8. Autorisation et établissement des débarcadères sur les bords des fleuves et rivières pour le service de la navigation; fixation des Tarifs et des conditions d'exploitation de ces débarcadères;
9. Approbation de la liquidation des plus-values ou des moins-values, en fin de bail, du matériel des biés affermés au profit de la province.

Travaux Publics intéressant la Province ou le Département:

10. Fixation de la durée des enquêtes à ouvrir.
11. Approbation des adjudications autorisées par le Gouverneur-Général, pour les travaux imputables sur les fonds de la province ou des départements, dans tous les cas où les soumissions ne renferment aucune clause extra-conditionnelle, et où il n'aurait été présenté aucune réclamation ou protestation: auquel cas la question relèverait du Gouverneur-Général;
12. Approbation des prix supplémentaires pour des parties d'ouvrages non prévues aux devis, dans le cas où il ne doit résulter de l'exécution de ces ouvrages aucune augmentation dans la dépense;
13. Approbation, dans la limite des crédits ouverts, des dépenses dont la nomenclature suit:—(*a*) acquisition de terrains, d'immeubles, etc., dont le prix ne dépasse pas £ T. 1,000; (*b*) indemnités mobilières; (*c*) indemnités pour dommages; (*d*) frais accessoires aux acquisitions d'immeubles, aux indemnités mobilières et aux dommages ci-dessus désignés; (*e*) loyers de magasins, terrains, etc.; (*f*) secours aux ouvriers réformés, blessés, &c., dans les limites déterminées par les instructions;
13. Approbation de la répartition rectifiée des fonds d'entretien et des décomptes définitifs des entreprises, quand il n'y a pas d'augmentation sur les dépenses autorisées;
14. Autorisation de la main-levée des hypothèques prises sur les biens des adjudi-

cataires ou de leur cautions; et du remboursement des cautionnements après la réception définitive des travaux; autorisation de la remise à l'administration des domaines, des terrains devenus inutiles au service.

Règlement sur la Compétence des Conseils-Généraux.

Article 1er. Le Conseil Général vote les centimes additionnels aux contributions provinciales ainsi que les autres contributions départementales dont la perception est autorisée par les lois.

Il peut voter également les emprunts départementaux remboursables dans un délai de quinze ans sur les ressources du département. Dans le cas où il voterait une contribution ou un emprunt excédant les limites sus indiquées, cette contribution ou cet emprunt, pour être valable, devra être autorisé par une loi.

Art. 2. Le Conseil Général arrête, chaque année, à sa Session de Septembre, dans les limites fixées par la loi du budget provincial, le chiffre maximum des centimes additionnels que les communes urbaines et rurales, ainsi que les communautés religieuses dans les communes rurales peuvent voter sur les impôts publics et sur les contributions départementales pour en affecter le produit à des dépenses extraordinaires. Si le Conseil Général se sépare avant d'avoir rempli cet office le maximum fixé pour l'année précedente est maintenu.

Art. 3. Le Conseil Général opère la reconnaissance, détermine la largeur et prescrit l'ouverture et le redressement des chemins vicinaux de grande communication.

Art. 4. Le Conseil-Général détermine les conditions de capacité auxquelles sont tenus de satisfaire les candidats aux fonctions rétribuées par le département.

Art. 5. Le Conseil Général statue définitivement sur les objets ci-après énumérés:—

1. Acquisition, aliénation, et change des propriétés départementales, mobilières ou immobilières, quand ces propriétés ne sont pas affectées à un des services indiqués au No. 4.
2. Mode de gestion des propriétés départementales;
3. Baux à loyer ou à ferme;
4. Changement de destination des immeubles départementaux, autre que les locaux affectés aux Tribunaux et au casernement de la milice et de la gendarmerie;
5. Acceptation de dons et de legs faits au département quand il ne donnent pas lieu à des réclamations de la part de tiers intéressés ou de la famille du testateur;
6. Classement et direction des routes départementales; approbation des projets, plans, et devis des travaux nécessités par la construction, le redressement, et l'entretien de ces routes; désignation des services chargés de leur construction et de leur entretien;
7. Classement des chemins vicinaux de grande communication; désignation des communes qui doivent concourir à la construction et à l'entretien de ces chemins et fixation du contingent annuel de chaque commune, le tout sur l'avis des Conseils compétents; désignation des services chargés des travaux;
8. Déclassement des routes départementales et des chemins vicinaux de grande communication;
9. Projets, plans, et devis de tous autres travaux à exécuter sur les fonds départementaux;
10. Offres faites par les communes, les associations, ou les particuliers pour concourir à des dépenses d'intérêt départemental;
11. Concessions de travaux d'intérêt départemental;
12. Etablissement et entretien des bacs et passages d'eau sur les routes et chemins à la charge du département; fixation des tarifs de péages;
13. Assurance des bâtiments départementaux;
14. Actions à intenter en justice au nom du département, sauf les cas d'urgence réservés à l'appréciation de la Commission Départementale;
15. Transactions concernant les droits du département;
16. Service des aliénés;
17. Création et fonctionnement des établissements départementaux d'assistance publique, orphelinats, &c.;
18. Pensions aux employés rétribués par le département;
19. Part contributive du département aux dépenses de travaux communaux intéressant le département;

20. Délibérations des Conseils Municipaux ayant pour but l'établissement, la suppression, ou les changements des foires et marchés;
21. Délibérations des Conseils Municipaux concernant les octrois.

Art. 6. Les délibérations par lesquelles les Conseils Généraux statuent définitivement sont exécutoires si, dans le délai de vingt jours à partir de la clôture de la Session, le Préfet n'en a pas demandé l'annulation pour excès de pouvoir ou pour violation d'une disposition d'une loi ou d'un règlement d'administration publique. Le recours formé par le Préfet doit être notifié au Président du Conseil Général. Si, dans un délai de quinze jours, à partir de la notification, l'annulation n'a pas été prononcée, la délibération est exécutoire. L'annulation ne peut être prononcée que par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Art. 7. Le Conseil Général délibère sur tout autre objet d'intérêt départemental qu'il ne peut pas trancher de sa seule autorité, et dont il est saisi soit par une proposition du Préfet, soit sur l'initiative d'un de ses membres. Toute délibération de ce genre est exécutoire si, dans un délai de six semaines après la clôture de la Session, une Ordonnance rendue en Conseil Privé n'en a pas suspendu ou interdit l'exécution.

Art. 8. Le Conseil Général donne son avis sur tous les objets sur lesquels il est légalement appelé à l'émettre, ainsi que sur ceux sur lesquels il est consulté, soit par le Gouverneur-Général, soit par un des Administrateurs-Généraux.

Art. 9. Le Conseil Général peut adresser directement au Gouverneur-Général et aux Administrateurs-Généraux, par l'intermédiaire de son Président, les réclamations qu'il aurait à présenter dans l'intérêt du département, ainsi que son opinion sur l'état et les besoins des différents services publics, en ce qui touche le département. Il peut charger un ou plusieurs de ses membres de recueillir sur les lieux les renseignements qui lui sont nécessaires pour statuer sur les affaires placés dans ses attributions.

Règlement concernant les Attributions des Baillis.

Article unique.—Les Baillis statuent sur les affaires dont la nomenclature suit:—

1. Délivrance des passo-ports;
2. Délivrance des permis de chasse et des ports d'armes;
3. Légalisation des signatures données par les Maires et Commissaires de Police pour les pièces qui doivent être produites hors du canton;
4. Autorisation de mise en circulation des voitures publiques;
5. Autorisation des loteries de bienfaisance;
6. Autorisation de changement de résidence dans le canton des condamnés libérés soumis à la surveillance de la haute police;*
7. Autorisation de débits de boissons;
8. Approbation des polices d'assurance contre l'incendie des édifices communaux;
9. Homologation des tarifs des droits de place dans les halles, foires, et marchés;
10. Homologation des tarifs des droits de pesage, jaugeage, et mesurage;
11. Autorisation des battues pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles dans les bois des communes et des établissements religieux et de bienfaisance;
12. Budgets et comptes des bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux;
13. Administration des biens des bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux;
14. Règlement du service intérieur dans ces établissements.
15. Acceptation de dons et de legs pour les communes et les bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux, lorsque leur valeur n'excède pas £.T. 100, à la condition toutefois que ces dons et legs ne provoquent pas de réclamations de la part des familles des donateurs ou testateurs.

Règlement définissant les matières faisant l'objet de la Police Municipale et Rurale.

Article unique.—Font l'objet de la police municipale et rurale:

1. La sûreté et la commodité de la voie publique;
2. Le maintien du bon ordre dans les lieux publics;
3. La salubrité des comestibles et la fidélité du débit des denrées alimentaires;

* L'autorisation d'un tel changement de résidence hors du canton rentre dans les attributions du Directeur-Général de la Justice.

4. La vérification des balances, poids et mesures;
5. Les moyens de prévenir les accidents et fléaux calamiteux ou de les faire cesser;
6. Les spectacles publics;
7. La taxation des denrées alimentaires légalement soumises à une taxe;
8. La publication des bans de culture et de récolte autorisés par la coutume;
9. L'échenillage des arbres;
10. La sécurité des récoltes;
11. La surveillance des prises d'eau destinées aux irrigations.

Règlement concernant les Dépenses Obligatoires pour les Communes Urbaines.

Article unique.—Sont obligatoires pour les communes urbaines;
1. L'entretien de la maison commune ou du local affecté à la mairie;
2. Les frais de bureau et d'impression pour le service de la commune;
3. L'abonnement aux bulletins, journaux et feuilles d'annonces dans lesquels sont publiés les actes administratifs;
4. Les frais de recensement de la population;
5. Les frais de recrutement de la milice;
6. Les frais occasionnés par le casernement de la milice au cas où celle-ci est assemblée pour des manœuvres ou à d'autres fins;
7. Le traitement du Receveur Municipal et des proposés de l'octroi, si octroi il y a, ainsi que les frais de perception de tous deniers communaux;
8. Les traitements des gardes forestiers et des gardes ruraux;
9. Les dépenses de police mises à la charge de la commune par les lois et règlements;
10. Les pensions des employés municipaux régulièrement liquidées;
11. Les frais d'entretien d'un service communal de pompiers;
12. Le contingent assigné aux communes, dans la dépense des enfants trouvés et abandonnés;
13. Les frais d'entretien des hôpitaux municipaux;
14. Les grosses réparations urgentes aux édifices communaux;
15. La clôture des cimetières, leur entretien et leur translation, dans les cas déterminés par les lois et règlements;
16. Les contributions et prélèvements établis par les lois sur les biens et revenus communaux;
17. L'acquittement des dettes exigibles;
18. Et généralement toutes les charges imposées aux communes par un Article de loi.

Abro Effendi donne lecture de la lettre que son Excellence Assim Pacha, Président Temporaire de la Commission, a, conformément à la décision prise dans la trente-cinquième séance, adressée au Général Stolipine, et de la réponse du Gouverneur-Général, datée du 2 Février (v. s.):

"*Lettre de son Excellence Assim Pacha à son Excellence le Général Stolipine.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{6 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général,

"Dans sa séance d'hier, la Commission Européenne, que j'ai l'honneur de présider en ce moment, a pris une résolution en vertu de laquelle je viens officiellement prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner des ordres sévères et précis pour faire cesser sans aucun retard certains malentendus qui entravent encore la marche de notre Administration Financière.

"Le Directeur-Général des Finances ayant été informé la semaine dernière que les Conseils Administratifs du département de Philippopoli avaient cessé de verser dans les Caisses de l'Etat les revenus des biens appartenant aux émigrés Turcs, s'est aussitôt adressé au Conseil d'Arrondissement du chef-lieu pour demander une explication de ce fait:

"Le Président de ce Conseil lui a répondu en exhibant une Circulaire du Général Baron de Hübsch-Grossthal dans laquelle, entre autres choses, il était dit, en vertu d'ordres émanant de votre Excellence:

"1. Que les sommes provenant des biens des fugitifs Musulmans ne doivent pas être versés dans les Caisses qui se trouvent sous l'autorité de la Commission Européenne, mais simplement confiées à ces Caisses, à titre de dépôt, dans des sacs cachetés

et contre des reçus libellés, de telle façon que les Conseils Administratifs puissent à tout moment les retirer et les mettre à la disposition de l'autorité civile;

"2. Que ces sommes doivent être finalement versées dans la Caisse provinciale de Philippopoli qui n'a pas encore été remise à la Commission Européenne.

"3. Que le Directeur des Finances n'a pas à s'occuper des Caisses municipales.

"Le document qui contenait ces instructions portait la date du 10 Décembre (v. s.). Il a donc été rédigé par M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli, après l'expédition de la très-énergique Circulaire lancée le 4 Décembre (v. s.) par votre Excellence à la suite des incidents qui avaient obligé M. Schmidt à interrompre sa première tournée d'inspection.

"Interrogé par M. Schmidt au sujet des ordres expédiés le 10 Décembre par le Baron de Hübsch, votre Excellence a bien voulu désavouer ces ordres, en déclarant qu'il y avait un malentendu entre elle et M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli. Votre Excellence n'avait donné à cet honorable fonctionnaire que des instructions relatives à de certaines sommes provenant de la vente de certains biens ayant appartenu à l'Etat Ottoman et considérés par les autorités Russes comme butin de guerre.

"Elle n'avait pas un seul instant songé à soutenir que les sommes conditionnellement encaissées, et provenant de l'exploitation des biens appartenant aux fugitifs Musulmans, ne devaient pas être versées dans les Caisses de l'Administration Financière établie dans cette province par le Traité de Berlin.

"Votre Excellence voulut bien, du reste, écrire au Baron de Hübsch pour lui expliquer son erreur, et celui-ci promit verbalement à M. Schmidt d'annuler sa Circulaire.

"Or, M. le Directeur des Finances devait faire le lendemain même une visite d'inspection à Tatar-Bazardjik. Comme il craignait d'être entravé dans cette circonstance par les effets de la Circulaire du 10 Décembre, il pria M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli d'aviser télégraphiquement le principal fonctionnaire de cet arrondissement que la dite pièce devait être considérée comme nulle et non-avenue. Malheureusement, le Baron de Hübsch se contenta d'envoyer au Chef de Tatar-Bazardjik une dépêche vague qui lui enjoignait simplement de ne pas créer de difficultés au Directeur des Finances, et M. Schmidt s'aperçut, à son grand regret, que les instructions erronées du 10 Décembre étaient encore considérées comme valables par les fonctionnaires de l'endroit.

"Avant de partir, M. le Directeur-Général des Finances avait donné au Caissier de Philippopoli ordre de s'adresser officiellement au Président du Conseil Administratif du même arrondissement pour le prier de verser dans la Caisse de l'Administration Financière toutes les sommes conditionnellement encaissées sur les revenus des biens des fugitifs Musulmans.

"A son retour ici, M. Schmidt trouva la réponse faite au Caissier par le Président du Conseil Administratif. Dans cette réponse il était dit en substance que le Conseil n'avait pas d'ordres à recevoir de la Direction des Finances, ce qui prouve que de nouvelles instructions annulant celles de la Circulaire de 10 Décembre n'avaient pas encore été expédiées aux fonctionnaires civils de l'arrondissement de Philippopoli. Du reste, la forme même de la réponse faite au caissier par le Président du Conseil Administratif ne fut pas considérée par M. Schmidt comme satisfaisante.

"En conséquence, il prit de nouveau M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli de vouloir bien sans aucun délai expédier des instructions annulant celles de la Circulaire du 10 Décembre, et il crut devoir ajouter à sa prière l'énumération détaillée des points qui devaient être élucidés une fois pour toutes avec une précision absolue.

"En outre, M. Schmidt avertit M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli qu'il ne croyait plus pouvoir remettre à plus tard que le Lundi, 10 Février (v. s.) la reprise de la grande tournée d'inspection trop longtemps ajournée et que, pour cette raison, il le priait d'expédier d'urgence, et le jour même, à savoir, Samedi dernier, tous les ordres requis, afin que les fonctionnaires ne puissent plus nulle part s'appuyer sur les instructions erronées d'une Circulaire désavouée par votre Excellence.

"M. le Baron de Hübsch promit de vive voix de faire tout ce que lui demandait, M. Schmidt. Celui-ci toutefois, pour écarter tout risque de malentendu, renouvela par écrit les demandes qu'il venait d'adresser verbalement à M. le Gouverneur Civil. A cette lettre il reçut une réponse écrite le priant de différer son départ jusqu'à Mardi. M. Schmidt consentit à ce délai, mais il crut devoir avertir M. le Gouverneur que, dans le cas où il n'aurait pas reçu Lundi à midi les documents qui lui avaient été promis par cet honorable fonctionnaire, il ne pourrait pas se dispenser d'en référer à la Commission Européenne, qui devait se réunir et qui s'est en effet réunie ce jour-là, en séance officielle, à 2 heures.

"C'est dans cette séance, M. le Gouverneur-Général, que la Commission Européenne, mise au courant de tout ce qui précède par M. Schmidt auquel aucune réponse n'avait été faite, a pris la résolution qui me vaut l'honneur d'écrire cette longue lettre à votre Excellence.

"La Commission approuve le zèle dont a fait preuve M. Schmidt pour faire cesser tout de suite les regrettables effets du malentendu qui a donné naissance à la Circulaire du 10 Décembre. Elle juge, comme le Directeur des Finances, que celui-ci ne doit plus différer sa tournée d'inspection, mais en même temps qu'il ne doit pas l'entreprendre avant d'avoir en mains la preuve écrite que des instructions absolument précises, dans le sens des engagements pris par M. le Gouverneur de Philippopoli, ont été expédiées à tous les fonctionnaires qui sont directement ou indirectement en rapport avec l'Administration Financière. Enfin, elle estime que M. Schmidt a raison de demander communication du texte même des instructions, afin qu'aucun malentendu nouveau ne puisse s'élever entre lui et les fonctionnaires auxquels il se prépare à rendre visite pour achever enfin la prise de possession par la Commission Européenne du mandat qui lui est dévolu par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"C'est pourquoi, pleine de confiance dans la ferme volonté qu'a toujours manifesté votre Excellence de nous seconder dans l'accomplissement de notre tâche, la Commission Européenne vous prie, M. le Gouverneur-Général, de bien vouloir vous occuper vous même de l'affaire en question, en ordonnant, conformément aux promesses faites à M. Schmidt par le Gouverneur de Philippopoli :—

"1. Qu'une copie de la Circulaire nouvelle annulant les instructions de celle du 10 Décembre (v. s.) soit communiquée à M. le Directeur des Finances dans le plus bref délai possible;

"2. Que le Conseil d'Arrondissement de Philippopoli retire la lettre qu'il a écrite sous le No. 104 au Caissier d'Arrondissement et remplace la dite lettre par une autre dans laquelle il se reconnaîtra tenu de fournir à l'Administration Financière tous les renseignements que celui-ci pourrait lui demander sur les questions financières, y compris celle des revenus des biens appartenant aux fugitifs Musulmans;

"3. Que toutes les sommes se trouvant au pouvoir des Conseils d'Arrondissement soient versées dans les Caisses dépendant de l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne avec indication exacte de la provenance de ces sommes.

"4. Que les Caissiers Municipaux fournissent désormais au Directeur des Finances les renseignements dont celui-ci a besoin pour constater que leurs Caisses ne contiennent pas des sommes devant figurer dans les Caisses de l'Administration Financière de la province.

"5. Que des copies des ordres et instructions demandés dans les paraphes 2, 3, et 4 précédents soient communiqués à M. le Directeur des Finances.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Pour la Commission Européenne,
"Son Président temporaire,
(Signé) "ASSIM."

"*Réponse de son Excellence le Général Stolipine à son Excellence Assim Pacha.*

"M. le Président, "*Philippopoli, le 2 Février*, 1879.

"En réponse à la missive de votre Excellence datée du 29 Janvier courant, je dois avant tout me mettre hors de cause pour ce qui regarde la question financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Je n'ai jamais eu sous mes ordres le Département des Finances de cette province ni *de facto*, ni *de jure*, car ma nomination au poste de Général Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale coïncide avec la remise des finances entre les mains de la Commission Européenne. Ainsi donc n'ayant aucune connaissance des lois, règlements, ou ordres sur lesquels étaient basées la comptabilité et la répartition des sommes de ce pays, d'un autre côté MM. les Gouverneurs ayant réglé le mode de la rémission des finances au Directeur-Général des Finances d'après des ordres antérieurs à mon entrée au pouvoir, mon rôle jusqu'aujourd'hui n'a pu consister et ne consiste qu'à donner avis à mes subordonnés des décisions prises par le Comité des Finances, sans me poser en juge compétent pour trancher la question si ces décisions sont ou ne sont pas d'accord avec les instructions qu'ils avaient reçues avant la remise des Caisses. Je n'ai qu'à faire maintenir l'ordre pendant la remise de ces Caisses dont je ne connais pas le contenu, à sévir en cas de désordre et à faciliter autant qu'il est en mon pouvoir la tâche ingrate de la Commission Financière.

"Ayant ainsi déterminé ma position vis-à-vis de la Commission Européenne en ce qui regarde la question financière, il m'eût été facile de tirer mon épingle du jeu, en priant la Commission de s'adresser directement, pour tout ce qui regarde cette question, aux autorités qui ont régi les finances et réglé leur transmission à la Commission Financière avant mon arrivée au pouvoir. De cette façon je me serais évité le désagrément d'assumer une responsabilité qui ne m'incombe pas, et celui de recevoir de votre Excellence un ultimatum qui, sans parler du fond, ne répond guère par la forme, à la courtoisie dont je ne me suis jamais départi dans ma correspondance antérieure avec l'honorable Commission.

"Mais, dans ma position, il eût été futile de sacrifier le but de conciliation que nous poursuivons tous à la forme et à une susceptibilité personnelle, d'autant plus que je dois me guider sur le désir de mon auguste Souverain de faciliter par tous les moyens légaux la tâche de la Commission Européenne et sur l'ordre formel de Sa Majesté, d'agir selon les décisions du Traité de Berlin.

"Aussi me suis-je mis en rapport avec le Commissaire Impérial, avec le Général-en-chef, et avec l'Ambassadeur de Russie près la Sublime Porte, pour en avoir des instructions précises sur l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, qui, à ce qu'il paraît, n'est pas assez clair pour ne pas se prêter à des interprétations différentes.

"Si les honorables membres de la Commission Européenne sont animés, comme je l'espère, du même esprit de conciliation que moi, votre Excellence voudra bien les prier d'attendre ma réponse jusqu'à ce que j'aie reçu les susdites instructions.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Lieutenant-Général,
(Signé) "STOLIPINE.

"Pour le Chef de Chancellerie,
(Signé) V. DE GRITZENKO."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Rapporteur du Comité des Finances si le Comité a connaissance du règlement édicté par le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff le 28 Juillet, 1878, et en vertu duquel les sommes provenant de l'exploitation des biens des réfugiés Turcs ou sommes conditionnelles devaient être versées dans les Caisses publiques de la province.

M. de Coutouly répond affirmativement et ajoute que les sommes en question ont été régulièrement versées dans plusieurs Caisses d'Arrondissement jusqu'au moment où une Circulaire du Gouverneur de Philippopoli a arrêté ces versements.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff voudrait savoir si, dans cette Circulaire, le Gouverneur de Philippopoli dit agir d'après les ordres du Gouverneur-Général. Il demande de plus à M. de Coutouly si la dite Circulaire a été communiquée par les autorités au Comité des Finances. Enfin le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne désirerait vivement que la Commission pût prendre connaissance de cette pièce.

M. de Coutouly répond que la Circulaire du Gouverneur de Philippopoli n'a été connue du Comité que lorsque les Conseils Administratifs du département ont suspendu le versement des sommes conditionnelles dans les Caisses publiques. Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances ne peut pas se rappeler exactement si la Circulaire faisait mention d'un ordre du Gouverneur-Général; il s'empressera d'ailleurs de demander communication de cette pièce.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff constate que le Gouverneur de Philippopoli à suspendu le versement de certaines sommes revenant aux Caisses de la province, malgré un règlement du Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff ordonnant ce versement et malgré l'ordre donné, il y a deux mois, par le Général Stolipine à toutes les autorités financières de l'Administration locale de satisfaire aux demandes du Directeur-Général des Finances.

M. de Coutouly se croit autorisé à fournir à la Commission quelques détails de plus par la question des sommes provenant des biens Turcs abandonnés: "Le Général Stolipine m'a," dit le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, "fait savoir au cours d'un entretien privé, que cette question a été portée, à la suite d'une entente avec le Commandant-en-chef et l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople, devant le Gouvernement de St. Pétersbourg, et a été résolue de manière à satisfaire pleinement les exigences de la Commission; le Gouverneur-Général espère être bientôt à même de communiquer officiellement à la Commission ce qu'il m'a confié personnellement."

"Je n'ai que peu de chose à ajouter," dit le *Colonel Schepelew*, "aux renseignements donnés par M. le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances. Je tiens pourtant à

fournir quelques éclaircissements sur les faits qui ont donné lieu à la correspondance échangée entre notre Président et le Gouverneur-Général.

"Vous savez sans doute, Messieurs, que les sommes connues sous le nom de conditionnelles se divisent en deux catégories. L'une provient de la vente de différents biens meubles ayant appartenu au Gouvernement Ottoman ou même à des particuliers qui ne se sont point fait connaître dans un délai déterminé; cette catégorie constitue ce qu'on appelle une prise de guerre et revient, par conséquent, de droit à l'Administration Militaire, qui peut en disposer à son gré. La seconde catégorie se compose des revenus provenant de l'exploitation des biens Turcs immeubles abandonnés par leurs propriétaires, dont les noms sont généralement connus dans les communes, et doit naturellement être restituée à ces derniers après constatation légale de leurs droits de propriété.

"Notre collègue de la Grande Bretagne vient de demander à M. de Coutouly si le Comité des Finances avait connaissance d'un ordre quelconque de l'Administration Civile, prescrivant le versement des sommes conditionnelles dans les Caisses d'Arrondissement. A ma connaissance un tel ordre n'existe point; mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que, d'après le règlement provisoire sur les Caisses d'Arrondissement, les sommes conditionnelles doivent entrer dans les dites Caisses sous une rubrique spéciale. Toutefois ce règlement n'ayant pas été appliqué uniformément et simultanément dans toutes les communes de la Roumélie Orientale, il s'est trouvé qu'au moment de la remise de l'Administration Financière à la Commission, une grande partie des sommes conditionnelles était encore restée entre les mains des Conseils d'Arrondissement et des municipalités.

"Je dois aussi faire remarquer que les deux catégories des sommes conditionnelles déposées dans les Caisses n'étaient pas matériellement séparées l'une de l'autre, ni des revenus publics de la province. Tant que les finances sont restés entre les mains des mêmes autorités qui administraient le pays, cette confusion n'a offert aucun embarras sérieux, car l'Administration pouvait toujours, en consultant les registres de recettes de Conseils Administratifs, établir exactement le montant des sommes entrées conditionnellement, pour les restituer peu à peu à leurs propriétaires respectifs.

"L'Administration Civile, ayant affermé les champs et autres biens immeubles abandonnés par leurs propriétaires, se considère comme seule responsable de la restitution à ces derniers des sommes qui leur reviennent de droit. Aussi, quand la Commission a pris en mains la gestion des finances de la province, l'Administration Civile ne s'est pas cru obligée de remettre toutes les sommes conditionnelles à notre Direction Générale des Finances; elle pensait pouvoir s'appuyer sur l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin qui charge la Commission d'administrer les finances de la province, c'est-à-dire les revenus publics et non ceux des biens particuliers. Toutefois, comme vous le savez, une partie des sommes conditionnelles du département de Philippopoli se trouvant alors déjà versée dans quelques Caisses d'Arrondissement, passa avec le contenu de ces dernières aux mains de notre Direction des Finances.

"On pourrait me répondre que, même en interprétant l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin comme l'Administration Civile, il eût été plus correct de verser aux Caisses d'Arrondissement, à titre de dépôt, toutes les sommes conditionnelles existant dans la province. Mais ceci, à mon avis, n'aurait pu se faire, de toute façon, qu'après défalcation exacte des sommes considérées comme prises de guerre, ce qui n'a pas encore eu lieu; en agissant autrement, l'Administration Militaire ne se serait pas considérée comme suffisamment garantie contre une retenue possible de cette catégorie de sommes par la Direction des Finances; cette dernière n'ayant pas voulu restituer à la municipalité d'Eski-Zaghra un dépôt lui appartenant qui se trouvait dans la Caisse de l'Arrondissement du même nom.

"C'est principalement pour obvier à une éventualité de ce genre et pour mettre à couvert sa propre responsabilité, que le Gouverneur de Philippopoli a cru devoir donner l'ordre, jusqu'à décision définitive sur la question des sommes conditionnelles, de suspendre leur versement dans les Caisses d'Arrondissement. Cette mesure ne pouvait, du reste, avoir qu'un caractère provisoire. Et pour preuve que l'Administration était loin de vouloir susciter par-là un sérieux dissentiment avec la Commission, le Gouverneur-Général s'est empressé, le lendemain même du jour où ont surgi les difficultés entre l'autorité civile et la Direction des Finances, de se rendre en personne à Andrinople pour amener une prompte solution de l'affaire.

"Vous venez enfin d'apprendre, par l'intermédiaire de M. de Coutouly, que la remise des sommes conditionnelles aux Caisses d'Arrondissement est déjà arrêtée en principe, et je puis ajouter qu'elle sera effectuée dès que le Général-en-chef aura statué sur la partie de ces sommes qui revient de droit à l'Administration de l'armée."

M. de Coutouly regretto que la Commission n'ait pas été jusqu'ici informée de l'existence des deux catégories de sommes provenant des biens Turcs.

"On n'aurait eu," dit il, "qu'à remettre la totalité de ces sommes à la Commission et à présenter le compte de celles qui doivent revenir à l'autorité militaire."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Colonel Schepelow si, parmi les sommes considérées comme butin de guerre quelques unes sont rentrées dans les Caisses postérieurement à la ratification du Traité de Berlin.

Le Colonel Schepelow répond négativement.

M. de Kallay voudrait savoir si le Comité des Finances était instruit d'avance du point auquel s'est placé le Général Stolipine dans la lettre qui a été lue au début de la séance et par laquelle il s'est mis hors de cause pour ce qui regarde la question financière. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie demande aussi au Rapporteur si le Comité a songé à qui il devra s'adresser dorénavant pour tout ce qui concerne cette question.

M. de Coutouly dit que le Comité des Finances a considéré qu'il devait se conformer à l'opinion si souvent exprimée au sein de la Commission, qu'aucun Rapport direct ne pouvait s'établir avec une autorité, que la Commission ne connaissait pas. Pour ce qui est de la question des sommes provenant des biens Turcs abandonnés, M. de Coutouly serait d'avis que la Commission attendit, avant de prendre une décision, que la solution que le Général Stolipine lui a fait entrevoir ait été communiquée, ce qui ne sera plus différé que de quelques jours, selon toute vraisemblance. En attendant, si la Commission le juge nécessaire, le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances est prêt à insister auprès du Gouverneur-Général afin de hâter cette communication.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il serait en effet indiqué d'attendre jusqu'à la prochaine séance la solution définitive de la question. Il ne voudrait pas néanmoins que M. de Coutouly insistât auprès du Gouverneur-Général pour hâter cette solution, car il lui paraît évident que les retards qui se sont produits n'ont pas dépendu de ce dernier. La Commission doit donc attendre que les auteurs des retards aient la complaisance d'y mettre fin; mais si la solution tardait indéfiniment la Commission devrait aviser.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande à M. de Coutouly a qui on doit s'adresser pour le règlement des affaires financières, si c'est au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, au Gouverneur de Philippopoli, au Gouverneur de Sliyno, au Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie, au Général Todleben, Commandant l'armée d'occupation à Andrinople, au Prince Labanoff, Ambassadeur à Constantinople, ou enfin au Gouvernement Impérial de Russie lui-même à St. Pétersbourg.

M. de Coutouly répond qu'il ne peut, pour le moment, donner aucune explication précise à ce sujet.

A la suite des explications fournies par M. de Coutouly et le Colonel Schepelew, il reste entendu que la Commission, à la prochaine séance, discutera la question des fonds provenant des biens des fugitifs Musulmans.

M. de Coutouly annonce qu'il a une communication intéressante à faire au nom du Comité des Finances. Après y avoir été autorisé par la Commission, il prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Messieurs,

"Le Directeur-Général des Finances a confié, le $\frac{25 \text{ Janvier}}{6 \text{ Février}}$ dernier, à un des employés de la Direction Centrale, M. Stéphanoff, le poste de Contrôleur à Haskeui. Avant-hier, Jeudi, il a reçu de ce fonctionnaire la lettre dont je vais donner lecture:—

"'A la Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

"'*Haskeui, le* $\frac{29 \text{ Janvier}}{11 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

"'M. le Directeur,

"'J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

"'Conformément a votre ordre du 25 courant, je me suis rendu à Haskeui le 26. Après avoir remis votre lettre au Chef de l'Arrondissement, j'ai pris possession de mon poste.

"'Du 26 au 29, j'ai travaillé tranquillement dans mon bureau, mais le 30, une foule composée d'habitants de la ville et des environs s'est réunie à l'école des filles, où il a été décidé qu'on ferait une manifestation pour protester contre l'envoi à la Caisse de Haskeui d'un employé de la Direction des Finances. Les manifestants se sont présentés devant le bureau de la Caisse en poussant des cris et en demandant que je sortisse. J'ai eu peur un instant d'être pris par eux et expédié à Philippopoli.

"'Le Chef de l'Arrondissement a fait des efforts pour disperser la foule, mais c'est à grand'peine qu'il a fini par y réussir.

"'La foule m'a menacé de me faire un mauvais parti si je ne retournais pas immédiatement là d'où j'étais venu, parce qu'elle ne voulait pas des employés de la Direction des Finances. Le Chef de l'Arrondissement a fait tout son possible pour me délivrer.'

"'Le Contrôleur de Haskeuï,
(Signé) "'L. STÉPHANOFF.'

"L'auteur de cette lettre n'est pas le seul qui ait été molesté par la foule à Haskeuï. Un autre fonctionnaire des Finances, M. Stoëff, a été menacé comme lui, le même jour, ainsi que le prouve le passage suivant d'un Rapport adressé par M. Schmidt au Comité:

"'J'avais,' nous dit M. Schmidt dans ce Rapport daté du Jeudi 1/13 courant, 'l'intention de partir pour Haskeuï; mais, ayant été retenu ici, j'y ai envoyé M. Stoëff, Inspecteur des Contributions Indirectes, pour y attendre mon arrivée et pour examiner le fonctionnement de cette branche de l'Administration Financière.

"'Pendant les quatre mois, pour lesquels la Commission Européenne a fixé le budget de la province, les contributions indirectes constitueront la seule source de revenus, et il est par conséquent de la plus haute importance d'en contrôler l'administration qui est très-défectueuse, et dans laquelle se commettent de grands abus.

"'M. Stoëff est arrivé dans la ville de Haskeuï Lundi dans l'après-midi. Les magasins et boutiques dans la ville étaient fermés et dans les rues stationnaient des groupes de dix à vingt personnes, regardant les voitures arrivant de la station comme s'ils attendaient quelqu'un.

"'Le lendemain Mardi, M. Stoëff fut menacé par la foule de la même façon que cela a été relaté dans la lettre de M. Stéphanoff.

"'Après avoir reçu ces nouvelles, je me suis présenté chez son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, aujourd'hui Jeudi 1/13 courant, pour lui en donner communication.

"'Son Excellence ne m'a pas reçu. C'est pourquoi je viens vous soumettre, Messieurs, ce qui précède, en vous priant d'en informer la Commission Européenne.

"Aussitôt que le Comité eût pris connaissance de la lettre de M. Stéphanoff et des faits relatés dans le Rapport de M. Schmidt, je me rendis chez M. le Gouverneur-Général pour lui demander de vouloir bien prendre des mesures: (1) pour découvrir les coupables et les punir; (2) pour protéger les employés des finances et prévenir de nouvelles manifestations. Son Excellence me reçut fort bien et me dit dès l'abord qu'elle avait donné des ordres dont la Commission serait satisfaite. Je crois savoir qu'un officier a été tout de suite envoyé à Haskeuï pour y faire exécuter ces ordres. Du reste, les manifestations du 30 ne se sont pas reproduites à Haskeuï, où M. Stéphanoff a pu reprendre son travail.

"Mais une autre manifestation plus violente a eu lieu hier à Tchirpan contre le même M. Stoëff, qui avait déjà été menacé à Haskeuï.

"Permettez-moi de vous donner lecture du Rapport par lequel le Directeur-Général des Finances a signalé au Comité ce nouvel et très-regrettable incident:

"'*Rapport au Comité des Finances.*

"'*Philippopoli, le 2/14 Février*, 1879.

"'Messieurs,

"'Persuadé que la manifestation de Haskeuï dont vous parlait mon Rapport du 1/13 courant ne serait probablement qu'un fait isolé, provoqué peut-être par des fonctionnaires ayant des raisons pour appréhender un examen sérieux de leur gestion, j'ai envoyé à Tchirpan M. Stoëff, Inspecteur, avec l'ordre d'étudier l'état dans lequel se trouvait l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de cette ville. M. Stoëff est arrivé à Tchirpan aujourd'hui Vrendredi matin; ce soir vers 6 heures j'ai reçu de lui le télégramme suivant:

"'"*De Tchirpan, 4 heures soir.*

"'"La population m'a chassé du bureau des Contributions Indirectes.

"'"J'ai trouvé refuge au bureau du télégraphe. Je me trouve maintenant en danger. Dieu sait comment je me sauverai, le télégraphe étant cerné par la population.

"'"L'Inspecteur,
(Signé) "'"STOEFF."

"'En portant ces faits à votre connaissance, Messieurs, je vous prie de faire les démarches nécessaires pour assurer aux employés de votre Administration Financière la possibilité d'exercer leurs fonctions.

"'Veuillez agréer, Messieurs, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

"'Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "'A. SCHMIDT.'

"Ce nouveau Rapport de M. Schmidt m'a été remis hier entre 6 et 7 heures du soir. Aussitôt, je me suis rendu chez M. le Gouverneur-Général qui avait déjà reçu de Tchirpan, par l'entremise du Gouverneur de Philippopoli, M. le Général Baron de Hübsch, des nouvelles confirmant la dépêche de M. Stoëff. C'est le Chef d'Arrondissement qui avait envoyé ces nouvelles au Gouverneur de Philippopoli dans un télégramme dont je ne connais pas le texte, mais où figuraient, je le sais, les mots: 'nous sommes en danger.' Quelques instants avant mon arrivée au konak, son Excellence le Général Stolipine avait eu un entretien avec le Baron de Hübsch, et il avait donné à ce dernier l'ordre de partir le lendemain matin à 7 heures pour Tchirpan avec une escorte. Des Cosaques devaient le précéder dans la nuit et une compagnie d'infanterie cantonnée dans une station voisine reçut par le télégraphe l'ordre de se rendre également à Tchirpan pour y entrer en même temps que le Gouverneur. En outre, M. le Gouverneur-Général voulut bien m'assurer qu'il télégraphierait au Chef du bureau télégraphique de Tchirpan pour rassurer M. Stoëff et lui annoncer l'arrivée du Baron de Hübsch.

"Les ordres du Gouverneur-Général ont été exécutés. Des Cosaques sont partis cette nuit à cheval, et le Baron de Hübsch a pris le train ce matin avec une escorte d'infanterie. Le Général Stolipine, vivement ému par ce fâcheux incident, est résolu à protéger énergiquement les employés de l'Administration Financière.

"Nous avons du reste reçu aujourd'hui deux nouvelles dépêches de M. Stoëff, qui ont calmé nos vives inquiétudes sur le sort de cet excellent fonctionnaire.

"La première est datée de 1 heure du matin. Elle porte ce qui suit:

"'*De Tchirpan, 1 heure du matin.*

"'Grâce au Chef de l'Arrondissement et au Chef de la station télégraphique qui, avec l'aide de gardes, ont pris toutes les mesures, ma vie à été sauvée.'

(Signé) "'STOEFF.'

"La seconde vient de m'être envoyée par M. Schmidt qui l'a reçue à 2 heures. En voici la traduction:

"'*De Tchirpan, 12 h. 5 m.*

"'Hier, après la dépêche No. 8, sur la demande de la population et sur les instances du Chef de l'Arrondissement, j'ai consenti à m'éloigner de Tchirpan accompagné par ce dernier. Mais aussitôt que je me suis mis à cheval, la foule est tombée sur moi; j'ai pu cependant m'échapper et me cacher au domicile du Chef du télégraphe.

"'Le peuple s'est dispersé dans la nuit.

"'Ce matin la place est de nouveau envahie par la populace, et je n'ai pas le courage de sortir de la chambre. Je vous supplie de me télégraphier comment je dois faire.'

"Sur ma prière, M. Schmidt vient de télégraphier à M. Stoëff que le Baron de Hübsch ne pouvait pas tarder à se présenter devant le bureau du télégraphe pour le délivrer et rétablir l'ordre."

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur l'Article concernant le droit de dissolution, déposé par Sir Henry à la trente-sixième séance pour être ajouté au Chapitre V.

Le Président juge utile de relire cet Article:

"Le Sultan a le droit de dissoudre l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"En cas de dissolution cette Assemblée est renouvelée intégralement.

"L'acte de dissolution qui est promulgué par le Gouverneur-Général au nom du Sultan contient convocation des électeurs dans les quarante jours et de l'Assemblée dans les deux mois.

"La dissolution ne peut être prononcée qu'après que l'Assemblée a été réunie au moins pendant une Session ordinaire."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'il a jugé nécessaire de réserver le droit de dissolution au Souverain, ainsi que cela est le cas dans les Constitutions Européenes:

"Pour éviter toutefois qu'on ne puisse empêcher l'Assemblée Provinciale de siéger en la dissolvant fréquemment, je propose à la Commission," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande-Bretagne, "de décider que l'Assemblée ne pourra être dissoute qu'après avoir eu une Session ordinaire de deux mois.

"Le quatrième alinéa de l'Article devrait, en conséquence, être ainsi rédigé :—

"'La dissolution ne peut être prononcée qu'après que l'Assemblée a été réunie au moins pendant une Session ordinaire de deux mois.'"

Le Prince Tzeretelew a une objection à faire au premier alinéa de l'Article proposé par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff. A son avis, il devrait y être stipulé que le Sultan dissout l'Assemblée Provinciale sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général; "Si nous admettions," dit le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "que l'Assemblée peut être dissoute sur l'initiative du Gouvernement Central, nous dérogerions au principe d'autonomie administrative établie par le Traité de Berlin, que nous avons tous admis en discutant le premier Chapitre, et en vertu duquel le Gouverneur-Général est le seul intermédiaire entre le Souverain, dont il représente la personne, et la province.

"Je propose en conséquence d'amender comme suit le premier alinéa du projet de mon collègue de la Grande-Bretagne :

"'Le Sultan, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, a le droit de dissoudre l'Assemblée Provinciale.'

"Mon amendement," ajoute le Prince Tzeretelew, "ne porte aucune atteinte au droit souverain de dissolution, mais il est propre à prévenir les graves inconvénients que produirait une pareille mesure si elle pouvait être prise en dehors de l'initiative du Gouverneur-Général."

Les Commissaires de Turquie préféreraient la première rédaction du premier alinéa. A leur avis il pourrait se présenter des cas où le Sultan se verrait dans la nécessité de dissoudre une Assemblée ayant pris telle ou telle mesure qu'il ne trouverait pas conforme aux intérêts de la province, quand même cette mesure aurait été décidée à la suite d'un accord entre le Gouverneur-Général et la Chambre.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il faut prévoir le cas où la Sublime Porte voudrait dissoudre l'Assemblée Provinciale même contre l'avis du Gouverneur-Général; il ne voudrait pas en conséquence réserver exclusivement au Gouverneur le droit de proposer la dissolution. Ce fonctionnaire sera très-vraisemblablement toujours consulté pour cette mesure en temps ordinaire; mais il peut se présenter des cas excessivement graves dans lesquels la dissolution sera nécessaire malgré l'opposition du Gouverneur.

Le Colonel Schepelew fait observer que dans l'éventualité dont parle M. de Kallay, le Gouverneur-Général ne posséderait plus la confiance du Gouvernement Ottoman et que c'est sur lui et non sur l'Assemblée Provinciale que devraient porter les mesures coercitives du Sultan.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il a présenté son amendement dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement Central comme dans celui de la province, parce qu'il rend impossible les faux rapports et les calomnies qui pourraient induire le Sultan en erreur: "Je tiens à constater d'ailleurs," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "que le fait que nous acceptons la clause relative au droit de dissolution est une concession de notre part. Il n'a pas été question de ce droit lorsque nous discutions le Chapitre I, et l'on pourrait difficilement citer une Assemblée Provinciale qui puisse être dissoute dans les conditions proposées. Tout en nous rendant, dans le cas présent, à l'opinion de la majorité de nos collègues, nous ne voudrions pas établir une ingérence étrangère dans les relations du Gouverneur-Général avec le Sultan."

Le Baron de Ring partage l'avis du Commissaire de Russie en ce qui touche la nécessité de réserver le droit de proposer la dissolution au Gouverneur-Général. "En stipulant que l'Assemblée peut être dissoute, malgré l'opinion du Gouverneur-Général," dit le Commissaire de France, "on encouragerait l'opposition des représentants de la population contre un fonctionnaire qui représentera dans la province l'autorité du Sultan."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff propose de voter l'amendement du Prince Tzeretelow à la majorité des voix.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie acceptent.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie accepte le vote à la majorité à titre de précédent.

Les Délégués de Turquie acceptent la majorité par esprit de conciliation.

L'amendement, mis aux voix, est adopté.

Les trois autres alinéas de l'Article sur la dissolution sont successivement mis aux voix par le Président, le dernier dans la forme nouvelle que propose de lui donner Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et votés par la Commission.

En conséquence, l'Article se trouve définitivement adopté dans la forme suivante et prendra le No. 23.

"Article 23. Le Sultan, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, a le droit de dissoudre l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"En cas de dissolution cette Assemblée est renouvelée intégralement.

"L'Acte de Dissolution, que est promulgué par le Gouverneur-Général au nom du Sultan, contient convocation des électeurs dans les quarante jours et de l'Assemblée dans les deux mois.

"La dissolution ne peut être prononcée qu'après que l'Assemblée a été réunie au moins pendant une Session ordinaire de deux mois."

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose d'introduire dans l'Article 34 du Chapitre V un alinéa additionnel ainsi rédigé :

"Conjointement avec le projet du budget pour l'année à venir, le Gouverneur-Général présente à l'Assemblée Provinciale le budget rectificatif de l'exercice clos. Si ce budget rectificatif ne peut pas être dressé à temps, il doit être présenté au plus tard dans la Session suivante."

La Commission adopte et décide que cet alinéa prendra deuxième rang parmi les alinéas de l'Article 34.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 18 Février :

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre V : "de l'Assemblée Provinciale;"
2. Le Chapitre VI : "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur Administration;"
3. La sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente et unième séance et conçu en ces termes : "6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha;"
4. La question des fonds provenant des biens des fugitifs Musulmans.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLKY.
SELIM.

No. 421.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the "Maritza," Nos. 57 and 58.

In the former of these General Stolipine has published, in accordance with the intention announced in my telegram No. 62 of the 25th ultimo, the Russian official account of the outrage upon the Greek Metropolitan at Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 421.

Extract from the "Maritza" of February 13, 1879.

A M. le Rédacteur du Journal "La Maritza."

Monsieur,

L'ATTENTAT révoltant dont a été victime Monseigneur Dionysios, Metropolitain Grec à Andrinople, a donné lieu à diverses interprétations qui, pour la plupart, sont basées sur des données incertaines et prêtent à contestation.

Désirant éclairer l'opinion publique sur les faits qui se sont passés à Andrinople le $\frac{6}{18}$ Février, son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale me charge de vous communiquer une traduction du Rapport qui a été reçu par lui, à ce sujet, du Gouverneur d'Andrinople.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Directeur de la Chancellerie de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) P. NECLUDOFF.

(Traduction.)

Le 7 Février, 1879.

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale et du Sandjak d'Andrinople.

Rapport.

En complément au télégramme envoyé à votre Excellence par moi le 6 Février courant, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits suivants:—

Hier, vers 3 heures de l'après-midi, un officier de cavalerie dont le nom m'est inconnu, est accouru chez moi au conac, hors d'haleine, en me disant que, près de la métropole, une bande d'hommes et de femmes s'était précipitée sur le Métropolitain Grec, Monseigneur Dionysios, et se trouvait en train de le battre. A mon arrivée sur les lieux, où je me rendis immédiatement, voici ce que j'ai trouvé. Le Métropolitain avait été conduit dans une des maisons voisines de la métropole par le Président de la Cour Martiale, Général Major Velitchkovski, qui l'avait arraché des mains d'une foule composée de Bulgares et de Grecs, tant hommes que femmes, qui le battaient et le traînaient dans la rue. Son Eminence avait le visage en sang, les habits déchirés. Elle avait conservé entièrement connaissance et se trouvait au milieu d'un groupe de familiers, hommes et femmes. Selon le désir exprimé par son Excellence, elle fut, en ma présence, reconduite dans ses appartements près la métropole. En réponse à mes questions, les témoins de ce regrettable événement me racontèrent qu'une partie de la foule qui était venue me déclarer au conac son inébranlable résolution d'émigrer, soit en Roumélie, soit en Bulgarie, et composée d'hommes et de femmes, tant Grecs que Bulgares, avait, en se retirant, passé devant la métropole et aperçu Monseigneur Dionysios, assis dans le vestibule avec quelques-uns de ses familiers. A cette vue, la foule se mit à l'injurier, à le menacer, en lui reprochant de ne prendre aucune mesure pour défendre la population contre les Turcs qui se préparent à les égorger. Sur la réponse du Métropolitain que les Bulgares d'Andrinople se trouvaient sous la protection des autorités Russes et que personne ne pouvait leur faire de mal, la foule se mit à crier encore plus fort, et, enfin, se précipita vers l'entrée de la maison, en vociférant des menaces; les familiers de son Excellence eurent le temps de fermer les portes, mais elles furent ouvertes de force par la foule et celle-ci se précipita à la suite du Métropolitain qui fuyait par l'escalier menant aux appartements intérieurs. Selon les dépositions des témoins interrogés, les femmes étaient les plus acharnées. La foule roua de coups son Excellence et l'arracha d'entre les mains de ses familiers qui s'efforçaient de la défendre; elle l'accusait d'avoir extorqué je ne sais quelles signatures et le conduisit dans la direction de la grande rue. C'est à ce moment qu'elle fut rencontrée par le Général Vélitchkovski, qui, avec l'aide de quelques hommes de la police, parvint non sans peine, à délivrer le Métropolitain et le conduisit dans une maison Grecque voisine. Peu après j'arrivais sur les lieux; je fis immédiatement arrêter quelques individus de la foule qui avaient pris, à ce qu'il me fut rapporté, une

part active aux outrages faits au Métropolitain. L'instruction de cette affaire est confiée au Juge d'Instruction près la Cour Martiale, Conseiller-d'État Lédébeff.

Le Gouverneur Militaire, Général Major,

(Signé) MOLOSTVOFF.

Pour traduction conforme:

Le Directeur de la Chancellerie de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,

(Signé) P. NECLUDOFF.

No. 422.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation, given to me by Mr. Calvert, of a letter addressed to his Dragoman from Sopot, which describes the language and proceedings of Bulgarian agitators in the neighbourhood of Carlova.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 422.

Extract from a Letter addressed to the Dragoman of the British Vice-Consulate at Philippopolis.

(Translation.) *Sopot, February* $\frac{11}{23}$, 1879.

AS I observe that the state of things both here and at Carlova is growing more serious day by day, owing to the presence of the emissaries Pavlo Seïkoff, Jovan Koupkoff, Nicolas Djoroff, and others, I wish to acquaint you with their proceedings.

They are continually going about the country compelling the villagers to learn drill and to exercise themselves in the use of arms, and they excite the minds of the people by giving out that the Turks are coming back to kill and hang them and to ravish their wives and daughters, to prevent which misfortunes the Bulgarians must oppose the return of the Turkish troops.

They also tell the peasantry that every man must set fire to his house before taking up arms, and that whosoever fails to act thus shall be killed as a traitor.

To-day at Sopot and Carlova the walls of the schools and churches were hung with black cloth. The doors of the houses were also hung with black banners, on which was written, "Death or Liberty."

These emissaries of whom I speak have brought the people into such a state of mind that they don't know what to do nor which way to turn. And those who have created all this turmoil are few in number, but being in league with the authorities, who are all adventurers ("chapkins") like the emissaries themselves, these sort of things take place.

To-day at noon they brought out the (national) flag for all to pass under it, threatening to beat those who refused to do so and to burn their houses to the ground.

Rebellious discourses are held every day, which terrify the people; and it is reported that Kisiakoff (a Bulgarian Colonel of the militia), or another Colonel, will be sent to these parts to collect soldiers to fight against the Turks. It is said of Kisiakoff that he is a very valiant and patriotic leader, and he is expected to arrive here to-day or to-morrow.

No. 423.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 95.)

Philippopolis, March 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 39th and 41st Protocols. The intermediate number is not yet ready, owing to its extreme length.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 423.

Protocole No. 39.—*Séance du* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Février*, 1879 (26 *Sepher* 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelow,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 38, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sur la proposition de M. Braunschweig, la Commission vote des remerciements à son Excellence Assim Pacha, pour le tact et l'impartialité avec lesquels il a dirigé les débats pendant sa présidence.

M. le Chevalier Vernoni lit la déclaration suivante :—

"Après la signature du Protocole qui a été lu dans la dernière séance, je me suis aperçu qu'on y avait omis quelques mots prononcés par moi. Je tiens à ce que cette omission soit réparée dans le Protocole d'aujourd'hui. Je faisais suivre les quelques appréciations relatives à la hâte que nous devrions mettre à nos travaux de cette conclusion : 'Il est regrettable que dans les Chapitres du Statut Organique que nous avons déjà discutés, il existe un grand nombre d'Articles restés ouverts faute d'une entente unanime entre les Commissaires. Il serait désirable que ceux de nos collègues qui sont en désaccord avec la majorité de la Commission au sujet de ces Articles, ou qui ont réservé leur vote, veuillent bien en informer leurs Gouvernements, pour provoquer des instructions qui les mettent à même d'émettre à ce sujet un vote définitif.'

"A ce qui précède j'ajoute aujourd'hui que nous rendrions, à mon avis, un grand service à cette province et à nos Gouvernements, si, à la clôture de nos séances, au lieu de leur présenter des questions spéciales à résoudre, nous leur offrions un travail définitif et accepté de tous. Ce résultat est, sans aucun doute, celui que nos Gouvernements attendent du mandat dont ils nous ont investis."

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, de Russie, et de Turquie s'associent aux vœux qui viennent d'être exprimés par M. le Chevalier Vernoni.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Président s'il a reçu une communication du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale au sujet de la Caisse spéciale.

M. de Braunschweig répond négativement.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff adresse la même question à son Excellence Assim Pacha, ex-Président temporaire de la Commission.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond aussi négativement.

M. de Coutouly dit que le Comité des Finances vient de recevoir du Général Stolipine une lettre qui se rapporte à la question posée par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne. Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances donne lecture de ce document :—

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Février*, 1879.

"Au Comité des Finances de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale.

"J'ai l'honneur de prévenir le Comité des Finances que la succursale de la Caisse centrale de Sophia connue sous le nom de 'Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli' se trouve actuellement fermée, par Décret du Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie.

"Cette Caisse représentant un total de 160,495 roubles, dont 9,499 roubles 13 copeks en papier, renfermait les sommes suivantes :

"1. La somme de 34,155 roubles 65 copeks en or, et de 7,148 roubles 93 copeks papier, provenant des revenus du Sandjak d'Andrinople.

"2. La somme de 40,933 roubles 57 copeks en or, et de 2,350 roubles 20 copeks papier, provenant de revenus des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno, n'entrant pas dans les frontières de la Roumélie Orientale, tracées par le Traité de Berlin. Ces deux sommes ne concernent nullement les finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

"3. La somme de 33,396 roubles en or fixée par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie, avant l'entrée au pouvoir de la nouvelle Administration Financière, comme secours aux émigrés Bulgares et Grecs, et la somme de 8,550 roubles en or, fixée dans les mêmes conditions comme secours aux habitants de Calofer, Yéni-Zaghra, Eski-Zaghra, Sopot, et Carlova.

"Cet argent se trouve à la disposition d'une Commission spéciale de secours aux réfugiés, organisée par le Prince Commissaire au mois de Septembre, et représente le reliquat de sommes de 50,000 roubles or et 40,000 roubles or, qui ont été fixées à ce sujet au début des travaux de la dite Commission.

"Ces sommes peuvent être, au désir de la Commission Européenne, versées dans la Caisse du Comité des Finances, mais pas autrement qu'à titre de dépôt et avec l'assurance formelle qu'elles seront délivrées sans aucune espèce de vérification, ni de contrôle, sur la réclamation du Gouverneur de Philippopoli, Baron de Hübsch.

"4. La somme de 21,000 roubles, destinée aussi avant le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre à la réparation du pont de la Maritza à Philippopoli, peut également être passée à la Caisse du Comité des Finances, mais aussi à titre de dépôt, pour être délivrée, à mesure de la marche des travaux, sur la réclamation de l'ingénieur qui en est chargé et auquel il y a déjà des arriérés à payer.

"Excepté les sommes sus-mentionnées, il se trouve dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli les sommes de :

"(*a.*) 500 roubles destinés aux écoles de Perüschtitza, Batak, et Eski-Zaghra :

"(*b.*) 317 roubles 62½ copeks destinés à l'entretien de l'école réale de Philippopoli ;

"(*c.*) 301 roubles 50 copeks destinés aux frais de l'équipement des gendarmes ;

"(*d.*) 267 roubles 27½ copeks fixés pour l'entretien des médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli ; et

"(*e.*) 562 roubles 50 copeks fixés dans le même but pour le Gouvernement de Slivno.

"Toutes ces sommes forment le reliquat d'anciens crédits ouverts avant le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre et peuvent être actuellement remises au Comité des Finances, à titre de dépôt des institutions ou des fonctionnaires, au nom desquels ces crédits ont été préalablement ouverts.

"4. De plus, il se trouve actuellement à la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli la somme de 33,359 roubles 80½ copeks en or, et de 46,041 roubles, 90½ copeks

papier, provenant des revenus des Sandjaks de Tirnovo et de Sistovo et laissés par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie pour pourvoir à l'entretien de la milice Bulgare, qui, à la date de l'ouverture de ce crédit faisait un avec la milice Rouméliote. Actuellement ces sommes seront envoyées à Sophia.

"Je crois de mon devoir d'ajouter que les sommes qui doivent être remises au Comité des Finances peuvent être rendues à M. Schmidt ou à tel autre employé désigné à cet effet par le Comité, Jeudi matin, dans le local de ma Chancellerie. Il va sans dire qu'il m'est indispensable de recevoir préalablement de la Commission Européenne un avis formel de son consentement à recevoir ces sommes dans les conditions ci-dessus exposées.

"J'ose espérer que la résolution de cette affaire au gré de la Commission Européenne servira de précédent à l'aplanissement désirable de toutes les difficultés survenues pour la question financière entre la Commission Européenne et l'Administration locale Russe."

"Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) "STOLIPINE."

M. de Coutouly fait ensuite la communication suivante:—

"Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, que j'ai vu ce matin, m'a autorisé à porter à la connaissance de la Commission que le Gouvernement de Saint Pétersbourg avait ordonné la remise à la Commission des sommes dites conditionnelles, provenant de l'exploitation des biens appartenant aux fugitifs Musulmans. Le Général Stolipine n'attend plus maintenant, pour opérer cette remise, que les comptes ayant trait aux sommes susmentionnées et qui ont été déjà expédiés de Sophia par courrier spécial. Ces comptes établissent une différence entre deux catégories de sommes qui jusqu'ici ont été confondues sous la dénomination de sommes provenant des biens Turcs. Il existe, d'un côté, des sommes considérées par l'Administration Russe comme butin de guerre, et de l'autre, des entrées conditionnelles appartenant à des particuliers Musulmans, auxquels elles devront être rendues aussitôt que ceux-ci auront justifié de leur droit de propriété. Le Général Stolipine paraît disposé à ordonner le versement aux Caisses publiques des sommes appartenant aux deux catégories, à la condition que la Commission ne considère ce versement que comme un dépôt. Par conséquent, les sommes que la Commission, d'accord avec l'Administration Russe, reconnaîtra comme butin de guerre, devront être restituées aux autorités militaires au moment de l'évacuation. Quant aux sommes qui appartiennent aux particuliers, elles devront être rendues à leurs propriétaires dès que faire se pourra."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff voudrait savoir si le Comité des Finances a été informé par le Gouverneur-Général de la provenance des sommes renfermées dans la Caisse spéciale: "D'après la lettre du Général Stolipine," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, "il est impossible de savoir si la Caisse en question renferme des rentrées opérées dans le Gouvernement de Slivno."

M. de Coutouly dit que la provenance des sommes dont parle Sir H. Drummond Wolff est inconnue au Comité des Finances.

Le Colonel Schepelew explique que la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli était une institution centrale et servait de dépôt aux sommes versées par les Conseils des divers arrondissements; il est donc impossible d'exiger que cette Caisse possède des indications exactes sur l'origine des sommes qu'elle renferme. Quant au second point qui paraît obscur à Sir H. Drummond Wolff, le Premier Commissaire de Russie dit que la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli était instituée pour les deux Gouvernements de Philippopoli et de Slivno.

M. de Kállay est d'avis que la Commission ne saurait accepter la Caisse qu'on est prêt à lui remettre, si l'origine exacte des sommes encaissées n'est pas indiquée.

Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances prie la Commission de vouloir bien décider qu'il sera tenu le 19 Février une séance extraordinaire pour terminer les questions que l'on discute en ce moment et s'entendre sur la réponse à laquelle le Gouverneur-Général subordonne dans sa lettre la remise de la Caisse réservée.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie croit que la Commission pourrait s'en rapporter entièrement pour cette question au Comité des Finances et charger ce dernier de prendre telle décision qu'il jugerait utile, en s'inspirant des idées émises plusieurs fois à ce sujet par les Commissaires. Le Prince Tzeretelew pense que la Commission éviterait ainsi de perdre dans des débats peu importants un temps précieux pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique.

M. de Coutouly dit qu'un des membres du Comité des Finances, Lord Donoughmore, étant absent, il ne saurait recommander à la Commission de charger le Comité, qui n'est plus composé que de deux personnes, de décider une affaire aussi grave. Il se déclare, pour sa part, tout-à-fait incompétent pour assumer la responsabilité de trancher cette question.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff fait observer au Prince Tzeretelew qu'il est tout aussi désireux que lui de ne pas retarder les travaux de la Commission par des débats sur la question financière. Mais il tient à constater que s'il y a eu jusqu'ici des lenteurs, elles sont venues toutes du mauvais vouloir dont faisaient preuve les autorités Russes précisement dans la question financière, et de la désobéissance du Prince Dondoukoff aux ordres de l'Empereur de Russie:—

"Si le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie s'était conformé à ces ordres, de longues discussions auraient été évitées," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne. "Il est fort peu courtois aujourd'hui de la part du Général Stolipine de nous forcer à donner une réponse en deux jours, quand l'Administration Russe a retardé la remise de la Caisse pendant quatre mois.

"La question qui nous occupe en ce moment ne peut pas être abandonnée aux décisions du Comité des Finances, bien qu'il ait, je le reconnais, mérité toute notre confiance. Enfin il n'est guère possible de prendre un parti quelconque avant que nous ayions en connaissance des comptes expédiés de Sophia au Gouverneur-Général."

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie est d'avis que la non remise de la Caisse réservée ne peut être considérée comme un retard apporté aux travaux de la Commission, car cette Caisse ne regarde pas directement la nouvelle administration de la province, les sommes qu'elle renferme ayant été perçues antérieurement à la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878. Si l'Administration Russe a cru pouvoir la remettre néanmoins à la Commission, c'était pour aplanir les difficultés dont se plaignait cette dernière:

"Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne," continue le Colonel Schepelew, "ayant cru bon de nous faire connaître son opinion sur les actes du Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, je me vois obligé d'exprimer à mon collègue le profond étonnement que m'ont causé ses paroles. La question de savoir si un fonctionnaire Russe obéit ou non aux ordres de son Souverain ne regarde en rien la Commission, qui n'est pas autorisée à émettre un jugement que Sa Majesté l'Empereur a seule le droit de prononcer."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'il n'admet pas que les autorités Russes aient été libres de remettre ou détenir la Caisse réservée. "Pour ce qui est du jugement que j'ai porté sur les actes du Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff," ajoute le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, "je dois déclarer qu'il a été officiellement porté à ma connaissance que ce fonctionnaire avait reçu à Livadia l'ordre de se conformer aux décisions du Traité de Berlin. Or, sa conduite dans l'affaire de la Caisse réservée est en contradiction flagrante avec ce Traité."

M. de Coutouly fait observer à Sir H. Drummond Wolff que les comptes attendus par le Général Stolipine, ne se rapportent nullement à la Caisse réservée qui doit être transmise à la Commission, et n'ont trait qu'aux sommes dites conditionnelles.

Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances croit d'ailleurs que la question tout entière serait utilement discutée, soit dans une séance spéciale, soit dans une Sous-Commission, qu'il propose d'instituer *ad hoc*.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff répond que les deux questions sont étroitement liées, car dernièrement le Gouverneur de Philippopoli, en suspendant le versement des sommes dites conditionnelles dans les Caisses publiques, a donné l'ordre de les faire entrer dans la Caisse réservée.

Le Prince Tzeretelew propose, afin de hâter le débat et vu l'opposition faite à ce que le Comité des Finances soit seul chargé d'aviser à une solution, d'adjoindre au dit Comité les deux Commissaires qui semblent s'intéresser le plus à la question financière: ceux d'Autriche-Hongrie et de la Grande Bretagne.

M. de Kállay croit que tous les Commissaires s'intéressent dans la même mesure aux questions financières, car le mandat de la Commission est déterminé par l'Article XIX autant que par l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin. Il refuse en conséquence d'accepter la tâche que le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait lui imposer, et se déclare prêt à remettre la suite de la discussion à une séance spéciale de la Commission.

Interrogée par le Président, la Commission écarte la proposition tendant à adjoindre au Comité des Finances les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de la Grande Bretagne pour former une Sous-Commission spéciale chargée de la solution de la question débattue. Il reste entendu qu'une séance extraordinaire sera tenue le 19 Février, dans laquelle on discutera les questions financières pendantes.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Règlement Provisoire et les Dispositions transitoires annexés au Chapitre V.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'il s'est entendu avec ses collègues de Russie pour proposer quelques modifications dans le texte primitif du Règlement Provisoire. Ce titre, "Règlement Provisoire" devrait, par exemple, être remplacé par celui-ci: "Règlement Electoral."

Après une courte discussion, la Commission adopte le Règlement Provisoire modifié comme suit:—

(A.)—*Règlement Electoral.*

Article 1er. Toute personne qui se prétend indûment omise de la liste électorale peut, dans les quinze jours de la publication régulière des avis annonçant que la dite liste a été dressée ou révisée, réclamer son inscription en s'adressant au Maire, duquel elle relève. Celui-ci est tenu d'en référer dans les vingt-quatre heures à la Commission chargée de l'opération. Si la réclamation n'est pas admise, le Maire doit, dans un nouveau délai de vingt-quatre heures, en informer le réclamant.

Tout électeur inscrit peut, par une réclamation faite dans la même forme et dans le même délai, demander l'inscription d'une ou de plusieurs personnes qu'il prétend indûment omises, comme aussi contester l'inscription d'une ou de plusieurs personnes qu'il prétend indûment inscrites. Dans ce cas, la Commission doit se prononcer dans les trois jours qui suivent celui de la réclamation.

Art. 2. Toute personne dont la réclamation n'a pas été admise par la Commission de dressement ou de révision peut, dans les quinze jours qui suivent l'expiration du délai de quinzaine indiqué dans l'Article précédent, porter sa réclamation devant l'autorité judiciaire du canton, qui statue après avoir provoqué les explications des Maires.

Le jugement de l'autorité judiciaire du canton peut, dans le mois de sa signification, être déféré au Tribunal d'Arrondissement, soit par le réclamant qui a été débouté, soit, dans le cas contraire, par le Maire, ou par tout électeur inscrit sur la liste communale.

Art. 3. Chacun des trente-six collèges électoraux visés par l'Article 4 du Chapitre V doit être divisé par des Arrêtés des Préfets en deux ou plusieurs sections. Cette division devra être faite de telle sorte que les électeurs n'aient jamais à faire plus de 8 à 10 kilom. pour se rendre au centre de la section de vote.

En outre chaque commune urbaine devra être sectionnée, si le nombre des habitants l'exige.

L'Arrêté du Préfet établissant le sectionnement doit indiquer les différents locaux où le vote aura lieu. Il doit être publié en même temps que l'Arrêté de convocation rendu par le Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 4. Les opérations électorales commencent à 8 heures du matin. Elles finissent en été à 5 heures, en hiver à 4 heures après-midi.

Art. 5. La séance électorale est présidée par le Maire dans chaque commune.

Si la commune est partagée en sections, la présidence appartient au Maire dans la première section. Dans les autres sections la présidence est dévolue aux adjoints, dans l'ordre de leur nomination, et aux Conseillers Municipaux ou Communaux, dans l'ordre du Tableau.

Un Arrêté du Maire, publié au plus tard la veille de l'élection, fait connaître nominativement les Présidents des différentes sections.

Art. 6. Au jour et à l'heure fixés, le Président procède à la formation de bureau, après avoir fait ouvrir la principale porte d'accès de la salle du vote.

Les deux plus âgés et les deux plus jeunes des électeurs présents à l'ouverture de la séance sachant lire et écrire, remplissent les fonctions de scrutateurs.

Les scrutateurs nomment ensuite le Secrétaire, de concert avec le Président.

Art. 7. Pour la validité des opérations électorales, il faut la présence continuelle de trois membres du bureau au moins.

Avant le commencement du vote, la boîte du scrutin, qui doit être à deux serrures, est fermée et scellée, après examen préalable, par les quatre scrutateurs. Une des clefs reste entre les mains du Président, l'autre entre les mains du scrutateur le plus âgé.

Les agents de la force publique ne peuvent pénétrer dans la salle du vote que s'ils en sont requis par le Président sous sa responsabilité, à raison de violences commises ou d'un tumulte grave.

Art. 8. Après la vérification de son droit et la constatation de son identité, chaque

électeur remet son bulletin de vote au Président ou à celui des scrutateurs qui remplace momentanément le Président.

Les bulletins de vote doivent être manuscrits et préparés en dehors de l'Assemblée. Ils ne doivent contenir aucune indication ou signe de nature à faire connaître les votants

Ils doivent être écrits sur des feuillets de papier blanc de même nuance et de mêmes dimensions; ces feuillets seront délivrés gratuitement par les Maires et par les agents municipaux aux électeurs qui leur en demandent avant le jour de l'élection, et tenus gratuitement à la disposition des électeurs, le jour de l'élection. Chaque bulletin doit être remis plié et dépourvu de tout signe extérieur.

Chaque bulletin remis au Président est immédiatement introduit par lui dans l'ouverture de la boîte du scrutin, et le vote est constaté par l'un des scrutateurs sur la feuille d'émargement.

Art. 9. A l'heure fixée à l'Article 4, le scrutin est clos, la boîte est ouverte, les bulletins sont comptés, et leur nombre total est constaté.

Le nombre total des votants est constaté aussi d'après la feuille d'émargement.

Il est ensuite procédé au dépouillement des bulletins par les membres du bureau, soit seuls, soit avec l'aide de scrutateurs-adjoints pris parmi les électeurs présents. Pendant cette opération, chaque bulletin doit être lu par un des scrutateurs ou scrutateurs-adjoints à haute et intelligible voix. Lorsqu'un bulletin porte plus d'un nom, il n'est tenu compte que du premier nom. Puis le Président constate à haute voix les noms de candidats ayant obtenu des suffrages et le nombre des suffrages obtenus par chacun d'eux.

Avant de se préparer, les membres du bureau arrêtent en double le procès-verbal des opérations et le signent ou le revêtent de leurs cachets. Les bulletins de vote ayant donné lieu à réclamation sont annexés au procès-verbal; les autres sont brûlés séance tenante.

L'un des doubles du procès-verbal reste déposé à la Mairie.

Art. 10. Le recensement des votes de chaque circonscription électorale est fait par le Préfet du département, assisté de son Sous-Préfet et du plus ancien Conseiller du département, ainsi que du Maire ou du premier Adjoint du Maire du chef-lieu.

A cet effet, l'un des doubles des procès-verbaux des opérations électorales et les bulletins de vote annexés doivent être, dans le plus bref délai, transmis au Préfet.

Le recensement se fait en séance publique, après avoir été annoncé par un avis publié depuis vingt-quatre heures au moins.

Le recensement achevé, le Préfet, en qualité de Président, fait connaître à haute voix les résultats. Il proclame l'élu ou les élus.

Art. 11. La Cour Supérieure de Justice rectifie, s'il y a lieu, les résultats du recensement. En cas d'erreur de calcul ou de fausse appréciation dans cette opération, elle en informe le Préfet, qui, sur le vu de la déclaration de la Cour, réunit de nouveau la Commission de recensement en séance publique et proclame élu ou élus le candidat ou les candidats qui, selon cette déclaration, l'ont emporté sur leurs concurrents.

Toute élection peut être contestée devant la Cour soit par le Ministère Public agissant en vertu d'ordres du Gouverneur-Général, soit par tout électeur appartenant à la circonscription dans laquelle l'élection a eu lieu. Les réclamations ou protestations des contestants doivent être adressées au Président dans les quinze jours qui suivent la proclamation de chaque élection.

S'il n'y a pas de contestation, la Cour juge sur le vu des procès-verbaux et de leurs annexes, et après avoir demandé à l'élu, s'il y a lieu, des justifications concernant son éligibilité.

S'il y a contestation, le Président de la Cour en donne avis à l'intéressé, qui a le droit de prendre communication des réclamations et protestations, ainsi que des procès-verbaux d'élection et de toutes pièces produites. L'intéressé est admis à présenter tous mémoires justificatifs.

La Cour peut faire procéder à enquête, soit par un de ses membres spécialement délégué, soit par Commission rogatoire.

Ses arrêts sont motivés, soit qu'elle déclare une élection régulière et valable, soit qu'elle l'invalide.

Une expédition de chaque arrêt est transmise au Gouverneur-Général par le Ministère Public.

Sur le vu des arrêts d'invalidation, le Gouverneur-Général convoque à nouveau, dans la quinzaine, les électeurs des circonscriptions dont la représentation, en conséquence des dits arrêts, se trouve vacante.

Art. 12. Les membres élus de l'Assemblée Provinciale reçoivent une indemnité de

40 piastres or par jour pendant la durée de la Session, ainsi que de 40 piastres or par jour pour le voyage, aller et retour. La durée de ce voyage sera calculée à raison de 20 kilom. par jour entre le collége du Député et le chef-lieu de la province.

Le Président met aux voix les Dispositions Transitoires.

La Commission, sur la proposition des Commissaires de Russie, décide que ces Dispositions commenceront par un alinéa fixant les limites des colléges électoraux. Cet alinéa sera rédigé ultérieurement.

M. de Kaltny accepte, à condition que la Commission ne s'occupera de la fixation des limites des colléges électoraux qu'après l'achèvement du Statut Organique. Il demande aussi qu'il soit bien entendu qu'on ne fera pas dépendre la mise à exécution du Statut Organique de l'achèvement du travail ayant pour objet la délimitation des colléges électoraux.

Après une courte discussion, les Dispositions Transitoires sont modifiées et adoptées dans la forme suivante:—

(B.)—*Dispositions Transitoires.*

* * * * * *

Pour les premières élections provinciales, qui suivront la promulgation du présent Statut et qui devront avoir lieu dans les trois mois de l'installation du Gouverneur-Général, des listes électorales provisoires seront dressées dans chaque collége électoral par l'autorité judiciaire avec le concours des Maires et Chefs des communautés religieuses.

Ces listes seront dressées par communes.

La liste de chaque commune y sera affichée pendant quinze jours, à l'endroit le plus fréquenté et de la manière la plus apparente.

Pendant ce delai, toute personne sera admise à présenter à l'autorité judiciaire des observations et réclamations, soit à raison de sa propre omission sur la liste, soit à raison de sa propre omission ou de l'inscription de toute autre personne.

Passé ce délai, les listes, accompagnées des observations et réclamations ainsi que de l'avis de la dite autorité, seront transmises par la voie hiérarchique au Préfet.

Les dites listes seront arrêtées par le Préfet.

Les bureaux électoraux des communes seront présidés par le Maire, un de ses Adjoints, ou un Conseiller Municipal ou communal.

Le recensement des votes pour chaque circonscription électorale sera fait, en séance publique, par le Préfet assisté des Chefs des communautés religieuses du chef-lieu du département.

La Commission décide que des modifications pourront être introduites, à la deuxième lecture, dans le "Règlement" et les "Dispositions transitoires" qui viennent d'être votés, si certains Articles ne correspondent pas aux Chapitres suivants du Statut Organique.

Le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances demande l'autorisation de faire une communication relative à l'incident de Tchirpan:—

"M. Stoëff," dit-il, "a présenté au Comité des Finances le Rapport suivant:—

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Février*, 1879.

"'Je suis arrivé à Tchirpan, Vendredi, à 3 heures de l'après-midi, et je suis descendu au bureau du télégraphe; cinq minutes après, je me suis présenté au bureau du Chef de l'Arrondissement auquel j'ai remis la lettre que le Directeur-Général m'avait donnée pour lui.

"'Après être resté un quart d'heure chez lui, je me suis rendu au bureau des Contributions Indirectes, suivi d'un habitant de Tchirpan nommé Stoja. J'ai lu devant cet habitant, à haute voix, la lettre adressée par le Directeur-Général au Directeur des Contributions Indirectes. Stoja, après avoir entendu cette lecture, a quitté le bureau. Cinq minutes après, plusieurs habitants sont venus au bureau; parmi eux se trouvait le nommé Jean Ténieff, qui m'a demandé de quel droit je venais visiter les livres de l'Administration. Sur ma réponse que je faisais mon devoir, il m'a accablé d'injures en me criant d'aller à la porte.

"'A ce moment, j'ai vu que beaucoup de monde arrivait devant la maison et que le Chef de l'Arrondissement parlait à la foule en faisant des efforts pour la calmer. Ténieff a vu, lui aussi, ce qui se passait au dehors, et il est sorti. Je me suis alors glissé hors du bureau, et, grâce à l'intérêt que la population prenait à écouter le Chef

de l'Arrondissement, grâce aussi à ce fait que peu de personnes savaient que j'étais l'objet de la manifestation, j'ai pu arriver sain et sauf au bureau du télégraphe.

"'A peine y étais-je entré, que la foule ayant probablement su ma fuite s'est précipitée vers le konak en poussant des cris. Elle a envahi toutes les pièces, et comme je ne m'y trouvais pas, elle a supposé que j'étais caché dans l'appartement du Chef de l'Arrondissement. Aussi, la porte de cet appartement a été mise immédiatement en morceaux.

"'Sur la place ils ont appris que je m'étais réfugié au bureau du télégraphe. Ils s'y sont immédiatement rendus en courant et en poussant des hourrahs. Heureusement le Chef de l'Arrondissement avait déjà eu le temps de prendre ses précautions. Quatre gendarmes et deux Cosaques qui se trouvaient par hasard à Tchirpan gardaient, sabre en main, la porte du télégraphe. Après plusieurs tentatives infructueuses pour pénétrer dans la maison, et durant deux heures au moins, la foule a demandé au Chef de l'Arrondissement mon départ immédiat de la ville, en jurant qu'elle ne me ferait rien.

"'J'ai fini par consentir à m'éloigner et on a fait préparer des chevaux; mais, dès que je me suis mis en selle, le peuple s'est jeté sur moi, m'a fait tomber du cheval, a arraché avec mon chapeau une bonne poignée de mes cheveux, a déchiré mon paletot et m'a égratigné le visage; mais, grâce aux gendarmes et surtout aux deux Cosaques, j'ai pu me relever et me précipiter dans la maison du télégraphe.

"'Une heure plus tard, un prêtre et trois habitants, dont l'un se nomme Stéfan Mouskoroff de Gabrova, sont venus examiner ce que j'avais sur moi. N'ayant rien trouvé qui leur parût suspect, ils sont sortis, et peu de temps après la foule a commencé à se disperser. Je dois ajouter ici, à titre de renseignements, que lorsque mon portefeuille m'a été rendu, il ne contenait plus dix-sept billets de banque Russes de 100 roubles chacun, ainsi que trente-cinq à quarante cartes de visite. Je soupçonne que le nommé Stéfan Mouskoroff est aujourd'hui le possesseur de ces objets; toutefois je n'ai pas de preuve de ce fait. Du reste, à ce moment-là, l'argent n'avait pas de prix pour moi: la vie m'était plus chère.

"'A peine la foule avait-elle commencé de s'éloigner que quelques habitants sont venus dire au Chef de l'Arrondissement qu'on se proposait de mettre le feu dans la nuit au konak, et ils ont conseillé de me transporter dans une autre maison, afin de faire voir au peuple que je n'y étais pas et d'éviter ainsi l'incendie. Ils nous ont dit qu'il y avait une maison préparée pour me recevoir. Nous y sommes allés, entourés de gendarmes, mais les femmes n'ont pas voulu nous ouvrir, et j'ai dû aller à l'école; c'est là que j'ai appris que la maison préparée n'était qu'un piége, où l'on devait me faire un mauvais parti. Je suis resté à l'école jusqu'à minuit, et c'est là qu'on m'a apporté plusieurs dépêches du Gouverneur, entr'autres celle qui m'annonçait l'arrivée du Gouverneur et des troupes. Cette nouvelle s'était vite répandue et une sorte d'effroi avait gagné les perturbateurs. Je n'avais plus grand'chose à craindre, aussi suis-je allé dormir au bureau du télégraphe.

"'Le lendemain matin la foule est de nouveau venue devant le konak, mais elle était plus calme, et elle y est restée, au nombre de 500 à peu près, jusqu'à l'arrivée du Gouverneur. C'est à ce moment seulement que j'ai pu me dire: Je suis sauvé.

"'Le Gouverneur est arrivé à 1 heure et demie accompagné par un gendarme et un Cosaque. Il est entré immédiatement au konak, et après avoir parlé d'un air fort irrité au Chef de l'Arrondissement, il est sorti, en donnant l'ordre aux gendarmes d'éloigner la foule. Ayant fait quelques pas le long de la maison, il s'est rendu au bureau du télégraphe, où il a demandé à me voir et a voulu savoir de moi ce qui s'était passé et si je connaissais les noms des agitateurs. Je lui ai raconté toutes les scènes qui s'étaient passées; mais, pour savoir les noms de ceux qui y avaient joué un rôle, je lui ai indiqué le Chef de l'Arrondissement. Le Gouverneur s'est tourné alors vers lui et il a pu apprendre le nom de ces personnes. Le Gouverneur m'a dit d'aller avec lui aux Contributions Indirectes; une fois là, il m'a dit: 'Prenez ce que vous avez besoin de prendre.' Je lui dis que je n'avais besoin que de quelques notes, et les ayant prises, je suis sorti avec lui; une fois dans la rue, il s'est adressé au peuple mais je ne sais pas ce qu'il lui a dit; le peuple répondait seulement par des hourrahs. La foule l'a accompagné jusqu'à la porte du konak: là encore il lui a parlé. A ce moment les vingt-quatre Cosaques sont arrivés et on les a immédiatement logés chez les habitants. Le Gouverneur, après avoir passé une heure avec le Chef de l'Arrondissement, s'est dirigé, vers les 5 heures, vers la maison qui avait été préparée pour lui.

"'Je n'ai passé avec le Gouverneur qu'une vingtaine de minutes, et lorsque je l'ai quitté au sortir des Contributions Indirectes, je ne lui ai plus adressé la parole, ni lui

à moi. Je dois ajouter qu'aucune arrestation n'a eu lieu tant que j'y étais, et qu'en dehors des vingt-quatre Cosaques, je n'ai vu ni entendu parler de l'arrivée d'autres troupes. Nous sommes partis à quelques minutes d'intervalle, le Gouverneur et moi, vers 8 heures du matin. Les Cosaques sont restés à Tchirpan.

(Signé) "STOLEFF."

M. de Coutouly continue en ces termes:—

"Le Général Baron de Hübsch, Gouverneur de Philippopoli, est parti samedi matin pour Tchirpan accompagné d'un gendarme et d'un Cosaque. Pendant la nuit il avat fait partir dans la même direction vingt-quatre Cosaques et il avait télégraphié à Haskeui l'ordre d'envoyer immédiatement à Tchirpan une compagnie d'infanterie. Cette compagnie, devant rester à Tchirpan jusqu'à l'évacuation, n'a pu se mettre en route avant le lendemain, mais les Cosaques étaient à Tchirpan, Dimanche, à 3 heures. Grâce à eux, le Général de Hübsch, arrivé le même jour à 1 heure et demie n'a pas eu de peine à rétablir l'ordre. Il a opéré quatre arrestations. Avant de quitter Tchirpan, il a donné aux Cosaques l'ordre d'amener les quatre prisonniers à Philippopoli, mais de ne pas vider la place jusqu'à la venue de la compagnie d'infanterie, dont le Chef restera commandant de place de Tchirpan, jusqu'à l'évacuation.

"Pour ce qui concerne le Chef d'Arrondissement, je crois devoir porter à la connaissance de la Commission ce que son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a bien voulu me dire sur la conduite de cet agent. Le Général Stolipine est d'avis qu'il n'a pas montré suffisament d'énergie et il a résolu pour cette raison de le remplacer à Tchirpan par un fonctionnaire plus capable d'imposer le respect à la foule. Toutefois, le Gouverneur-Général estime que c'est en somme un très-bon employé qui ne doit pas être destitué. Il lui donnera un emploi dans un autre poste.

"Les quatre personnes arrêtées sont arrivées ce matin ici avec les Cosaques. Ce sont les nommés:—

"Stoé Philippoff (accusé d'avoir le premier excité la foule);

"Ieka Ghineff (a fait tomber l'Inspecteur de son cheval en le tirant par le bras);

"Athanase Tchofjongiota (excitait la foule à incendier la Préfecture);

"Stéfan Miscoroff (a injurié l'autorité et fomentait le désordre).

"Pendant la séance j'ai reçu la nouvelle qu'une vingtaine d'habitants de Tchirpan se sont présentés aujourd'hui au Baron de Hübsch, pour le supplier de relâcher les prisonniers, en alléguant que la population tout entière de Tchirpan ayant pris part à la manifestation, ou bien il faut châtier en masse, ou bien pardonner à ceux que le hasard a fait tomber aux mains des gendarmes. Il paraît que cette manifestation a quelque peu agité les esprits à Philippopoli.

"Mais je sais positivement que le Gouverneur est résolu à ne se laisser influencer par aucune députation, et j'ai la confiance que la députation de Tchirpan sera purement et simplement renvoyée dans ses foyers. Le Général Stolipine m'a dit qu'il s'attendait à voir se produire d'autres manifestations semblables à celles de Tchirpan. Toutes les mesures pour réprimer ces manifestations seront prises, mais il se croit impuissant à les prévenir, et il engage M. Schmidt à ne pas partir pour la tournée qu'il compte entreprendre sans lui faire connaître son itinéraire, et sans lui demander une escorte suffisante pour se mettre à l'abri de tout désagrément."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff propose de discuter à la prochaine séance le Chapitre VI: "de la Gendarmerie."

Le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait remettre cette discussion jusqu'à ce que le Chapitre relatif à l'Administration fût voté, car à son point de vue les deux questions sont étroitement liées.

Après un court échange d'idées entre les Commissaires, il reste entendu que le Chapitre sur la Gendarmerie sera examiné en séance privée.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la séance extraordinaire fixée au 21 Février:

Les questions financières pendantes.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 24 Février:

1. Le Chapitre VI: "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration."

2. La sixième question du Comité des Finances posée dans le Rapport lu par M. de Coutouly à la trente et unième séance, et conçu en ces termes: "6. Quelle réponse la Commission juge-t-elle convenable de faire à la communication de M. le Gouverneur-Général concernant les districts d'Ichtiman et de Moustapha-Pacha?"

3. La question des fonds provenant des biens des fugitifs Musulmans.

La séance est levée à 7 heures 20 minutes du soir.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 423.

Protocole No. 41.—*Séance du* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Février*, 1879 (2 *Rébi-ul-Evel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 40 est lu par M. Rozet.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff fait la déclaration suivante:—

"En refusant, dans la dernière séance, d'accepter la proposition du Baron de Ring tendant à décider que les questions à l'ordre du jour pourraient être résolues à la majorité des voix, je n'avais en vue que la réponse à donner au Gouverneur-Général relativement à la Caisse réservée."

Ces réserves faites, le Protocole No. 40 est adopté.

M. de Coutouly annonce à la Commission que quelques heures après la dernière séance il a reçu la lettre suivante du Général Stolipine:—

"*Au Comité des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{3}{15}$ *Février*, 1879.

"J'ai l'honneur de prévenir le Comité des Finances que, dans ma lettre du 5 Février, il y a eu erreur de chiffres par la faute de ma Chancellerie. Cette erreur, que je m'empresse de rectifier, concerne:—

"1. Le montant des sommes qui se trouvaient dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli. Ce total s'élève, non à 160,495 r. 52 c., dont 9,499 r. 13 c. en papier, mais à 149,743 r. 52 c., dont 9,499 r. 13 c. en papier.

"2. Le reliquat de la somme fixée pour secours aux habitants de Karlovo, Kalofer, &c., est de 8,750 roubles et non de 8,550 roubles.

"En signalant ces erreurs à l'attention du Comité des Finances et en le priant de vouloir bien les rectifier, je crois de mon devoir d'y ajouter que les sommes signalées dans l'alinéa quatre de mon office No. 265, savoir; les sommes de 33,369 r. 80½ c. en or, et de 46,041 r. 90½ c. papier provenant des revenus de Tirnovo et de Sistovo n'entrent pas dans le total de la Caisse ci-dessus mentionné.

"Le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) "STOLIPINE."

"J'avais été instruit," ajoute le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, "du désir du Général Stolipine de voir l'erreur dont parle la lettre dont je viens de donner lecture rectifiée dans le texte même de la première communication. Je n'ai pas cru possible d'accéder à cette demande, sur laquelle d'ailleurs on n'a pas insisté."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Président s'il a connaissance des mesures prises en vue de punir les fauteurs des désordres de Tchirpan, de Haskeuï, et de Yeni-Zaghra.

Le Président répond négativement.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff demande au Rapporteur du Comité de Finances s'il a reçu des renseignements sur les sommes dites conditionnelles.

M. de Contouly répond négativement.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Chapitre VI: "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration."

Le Baron de Ring prend la parole en ces termes:

"Dans le projet que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre aujourd'hui à la Commission, j'ai divisé la future province en départements, cantons, et communes. En concevant cette division, je me suis inspiré du vœu émis à plusieurs particuliers de ne pas voir alanguir l'action de l'Administration par la complication du mécanisme administratif et le luxe des instances. Ceci m'a obligé à multiplier les grandes unités territoriales, c'est-a-dire les départements, et à restreindre le nombre des cantons, en abolissant les divisions intermédiaires existant ici à l'heure qu'il est sous le nom d'arrondissement, et le fonctionnaire placé à sa tête serait investi des attributions dont jouissent les Sous-Préfets en France et les baillis dans certains pays d'Allemagne.

"Mon système aura le grand avantage de rapprocher l'autorité des administrés et de faciliter le contrôle de la population sur l'Administration. Actuellement la province est divisée en deux départements. Si, désireux de maintenir une pareille division, vous dotiez ces deux départements d'Assemblées Représentatives, celles-ci auraient ou bien une importance exagérée, qui les porterait à empiéter sur le domaine réservé à l'Assemblée Provinciale, ou bien elles deviendraient simplement des doublures de cette dernière. Le même raisonnement s'applique aux Gouverneurs eux-mêmes dans leurs relations avec le Gouverneur-Général. Si, au contraire, vous instituiez, comme je le propose, six départements, les compétences respectives du Gouverneur-Général et des Préfets, de l'Assemblée Provinciale et des Assemblées Départementales seraient faciles à marquer, faciles à maintenir, et le contrôle exercé par la représentation populaire deviendrait efficace à tous les degrés.

"Pour ce qui est de l'organisation administrative de la province, j'ai tâché, en élaborant mon projet, de me conformer aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, qui nous indique comme point de départ pour notre œuvre, d'un côté les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople, et, de l'autre, les lois des vilayets. Ces dernières sont en majeure partie empruntées à la législation administrative Française; je les ai complétées sur des points importants en puisant à la source dont elles dérivent, et je puis par conséquent caractériser mon travail comme une tentative d'Européiser les institutions qui existaient dans ce pays avant la guerre. C'est ainsi que je me suis inspiré de la législation Française pour tout ce qui concerne les attributions des différents fonctionnaires.

"La représentation départementale sera, d'après mon projet, calquée sur le modèle de la représentation provinciale que nous avons déjà arrêtée dans ses grandes lignes, et l'Assemblée Départementale sera ainsi une réduction de celle qui siégera au chef-lieu de la Roumélie Orientale. J'ai été, par contre, obligé d'imaginer un système absolument nouveaux pour l'élection des Conseils Municipaux urbains: j'y

ai été amené par le désir de donner aux différentes nationalités qui habitent les villes de la Roumélie Orientale une représentation strictement proportionnée à l'importance numérique de celles-là. Des expériences récentes ont démontré, en effet, que le bon vouloir des autorités est impuissant à sauvegarder efficacement les droits des minorités, et qu'il est nécessaire de garantir, par des dispositions législatives formelles, à chacun des groupes ethnographiques, la représentation à laquelle il a droit. J'ai la conscience en ceci de m'être strictement tenu à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin, qui proclame l'égalité des races dans le pays que nous sommes appelés à organiser.

"Je n'ai pas encore," dit en terminant le Commissaire de France, "toutes les pièces nécessaires pour faire un exposé complet de la matière importante que nous abordons aujourd'hui; ainsi je n'ai pas sous les yeux la carte sur laquelle j'ai tracé les limites des divisions administratives que je vous propose. Pour ce motif, je prierai mes collègues de remettre la discussion de mon projet à demain: en attendant, nous pourrions échanger à titre privé quelques idées à son sujet, afin de préparer le terrain pour notre prochaine séance officielle."

Les Commissaires de Turquie déclarent qu'ils voteront en bloc tout le projet de M. de Ring qui est conçu dans un sens très-libéral. Ils n'auront d'observations à faire que sur certains détails. Leur adhésion à l'ensemble de ce projet prouve le désir qu'ils ont d'arriver le plus tôt possible à une entente et de hâter, autant qu'il depend d'eux, les travaux de la Commission.

Le Colonel Schepeleu. "Il m'a été impossible d'étudier à fond le projet rédigé par mon collègue de France, et dont je n'ai eu connaissance qu'hier. Tout en rendant hommage à l'auteur d'un travail aussi consciencieux, il me serait fort difficile d'entrer dès aujourd'hui dans un examen détaillé de diverses questions qu'il soulève, et je me joins au Baron de Ring pour demander le renvoi de la discussion à demain. Je me bornerai donc à signaler à l'attention de mes collègues quelques points qui sont de nature à soulever des objections de la part des Commissaires de Russie.

"C'est ainsi que je voudrais m'expliquer les motifs qui ont guidé le Baron de Ring dans la division administrative qu'il a faite de la province. Les conditions géographiques du pays opposent plus d'un obstacle à cette division. Le nombre des cantons indiqué dans le projet du Commissaire de France me paraît devoir être aussi sujet à discusion, car il est étroitement lié à la question de la décentralisation administrative que nous considérons comme indispensable pour ce pays. A un point de vue général nous sommes d'avis que les divisions administratives ne devraient être fixées par la Commission que d'une manière provisoire et pourraient utilement faire l'objet d'un règlement que l'Assemblée Provinciale aurait le droit de modifier.

"Enfin, pour ce qui est de la représentation départementale, je ferai observer au Baron de Ring que son projet s'écarte sensiblement du point de départ qu'il dit être le Traité de Berlin. En effet, ni les propositions de la huitième Conférence plénière de Constantinople, ni même la loi des vilayets, n'ont pas restreint la liberté de cette représentation en admettant l'existence de membres nommés par l'autorité centrale comme le voudrait notre collègue de France. Sans pouvoir me prononcer définitivement sur le projet de M. de Ring, que je n'ai point encore eu le temps d'étudier suffisamment, je prévois qu'il nous sera impossible de l'accepter en bloc."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il se joint à son collègue de France pour demander que la discussion sur le Chapitre VI, qui nécessite une étude attentive, soit remise au lendemain. Il fait observer, à cette occasion, que les règlements spéciaux annexés au Chapitre VI ne sont pas encore connus de tous les Commissaires.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et *de la Grande Bretagne* préféreraient que la discussion eût lieu immédiatement; mais ils ne s'opposeront pas à ce qu'elle soit renvoyée à une autre séance, si la majorité des Commissaires se prononce dans ce sens.

La Commission décide que la discussion est remise au lendemain.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dépose la motion suivante:

"*Motion.*

"La Commission prend acte des vœux et des observations exprimés dans les Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, et 89, et en tiendra compte au cours de ses travaux."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 25 Février:

1. Le débat sur le Chapitre VI: "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration;"

2. La motion faite par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff au sujet des Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, et 89.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 424.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 196.)
My Lord,

Pera, March 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a very interesting Report from Captain Stewart, of the 11th Hussars, giving the information he collected during a journey from Samsoun to Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Report on the Chief Questions found agitating the Population in a Journey from Samsoun through Tocat and Sivas to Diarbekir.

Teherkess.—In the Province of Sivas there are said to be, including the latest emigration, about 8,000 Cherkess families, which, allowing five to each family, will make a population of 40,000.

On the road I found that the latest emigration had reached a point about a day's march to the north of Sivas. Teherkess families and villages belonging to earlier emigrations are, however, scattered over the country still further to the south.

In almost every village I stopped, at both Turkish and Christian, the same question was asked me, "When are we going to be delivered from the Teherkess?" accompanied by many stories of robberies, and, when resisted, of mutilations and murders. In one village, that of Ulush, one day's march south-east of Sivas, I met a shepherd who had quite recently lost two of his fingers in preventing Teherkess carrying off his sheep; also another cut about the face. In this case the perpetrators were said to be Teherkess belonging to a village of Teherkess, who had been in the country for twenty-five or thirty years.

I spoke to the priest of this village, an old Armenian of about 80; he told me that never in his recollection had he known the country in such a disturbed state; that they, the Armenians, had petitioned their Patriarch at Constantinople on the subject of the Teherkess, but had, as yet, received no answer.

The peasants appear to think that the local Government has orders from the Porte to overlook Teherkess offences; they say that in many cases where Teherkess are brought to trial they are allowed to escape unpunished, and that sometimes their captors are punished instead.

It is, however, very probable that the Government are afraid of the Teherkess, who have been allowed to land in the country armed to the teeth, and, as far as any opposition that the Government could make, quite masters of the situation.

Whilst writing on the subject, I would wish to tell the story of the Bildagh mountaineers, as related to me by the German Consul at Amasia, a Mr. King.

The Beldagh is a tract of mountainous land situated on the road leading from Amasia to Tokat, and bordering on the roads to Tokat, Sivas, and Gilli. By a Firman

given some years ago on condition that the villagers should furnish wood gratuitously for Government purposes. When the recent Teherkess emigration took place the Government desired to hand some of these mountains to them.

This plan the villagers resisted, through their delegates sent to meet the special Government official from Constantinople. The peasants offered to accommodate a certain number of Teherkess in each village, and to supply them with agricultural implements, and to feed them for the first year.

The Government, however, still insisted on its plan of allowing the Teherkess to settle in communities, and compelled the delegates, under threat of punishment, to sign a paper granting the necessary lands. The peasants then declared that they would not be bound by the acts of their delegates, and when the officials appeared to take possession they turned out and resisted them.

At present the affair remains in this state: Government has not succeeded in its purpose, and the Teherkess families are still waiting for something to be done for them. There can be no doubt that the sooner the Porte takes some measures for putting a stop to these outrages the better; at present they are causing great dissatisfaction, and are a formidable weapon in the hands of those who are trying to undermine the remaining influence of the Government.

If I may be allowed to make a suggestion on this subject, I would say why not use of the Teherkess as zaptiehs and soldiers, under a stern and rigid discipline. I believe they might be turned into useful members of society.

Caimé.—This is extensively used all over the Vilayet of Sivas, but not in Kurdistan. It is everywhere spoken of with disgust and alarm. It has largely tended to encourage a spirit of speculation and gambling. It is of course highly detrimental to commerce, and is a leading cause tending to alienate many from the Government.

Public Administration and Justice.—From all with whom I have spoken in this subject, I receive the same opinion that it cannot be worse. Some assert that it is the Councils, which are supposed to be elected by the people, but which are practically chosen by powerful local influences who hamper the officials; others that the Government officials who are in fault.

Bribery and corruption have, I am told, increased enormously since the war, and pervade all ranks, from the highest to the lowest. Such is the terrible extent of this evil, that I have frequently heard it asserted that it is almost impossible for the Government to find an honest man.

Much of this increase is to be attributed to the salaries being in caimé; but whatever the cause the evil is daily increasing, and having once secured such a hold it will be almost impossible to put a stop to it.

As a glaring example of a corrupt official, I would point out the present Cadi of Amasia. I am informed by the German Consul that for bribery and corruption this Cadi is almost unrivalled. Fortunately for Amasia his two years of office are nearly over, when I suppose he will return to Constantinople and spend some of his ill-gotten gains in bribing for a new place. The police is also in a terribly inefficient condition. What can be thought of its condition when, in Amasia, the present Kursedar was for ten years a prisoner for felony in chains!

Communication.—Between Samsoun and Diarbekir the road consists principally of a track, and is generally quite unsuited for wheeled conveyances. Here and there there are attempts at making a road such as for a short distance on each side of Amasia, due to the energy of Zia Pasha, the present Vali of Adana, also in the neighbourhood of Tokat and Sivas, and between Harpoot and Diarbekir.

The Turks do not appear to have thought it necessary to look after the road when built. In many cases the old Roman bridges are still used, and it is interesting to see how well these have stood the war of centuries, while a few years have sufficed to destroy the Turkish ones. No bridge that I have seen is wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass.

Public Opinion.—It would be advisable to divide this question into two parts, Turks and Christians.

Turks.—Although the Turks will talk for hours and waste much time over their cigarettes and coffee about what foreign Powers are doing, they appear to have no idea that they should do something for themselves. Public opinion with them does not appear to be vigorous, and, like all Easterns, they appear quite prepared to accept what they consider the inevitable.

Still, from all I can hear and collect, I should be inclined to divide the Turks into the following groups—

1. A party, consisting of the fanatical and intolerant, of whom it may be said that they have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing.

2. A party, consisting of those who have travelled, have picked up some education, and acquired some knowledge of Western culture. This party is alive to the necessity of reforms, and, hating their own Government, would accept a foreign one. Between these two extremes the Osmanlis remaining, sometimes inclining as before the war to the first party and at present to the second.

There is no doubt that the mass of the Turkish people at present wish for reform, although I very much question if they quite understand the meaning of the word. What they appear to think is, that England is going to pay their debts, build railways, roads, &c. With their own Government as represented by the Pashas they are indignant. They complain of the constant intrigues and changes of Ministry at Stamboul, the miserable way in which the war was managed, the want of security for life and property, and the immense peculation and dishonesty among the officials. Added to all this, the Turks have lost heavily through the repudiation of the debt and the diminished value of the railway stocks and caimé, in which as at Tokat they were largely interested. They are I believe inclined to the English, although perhaps England's recent occupation of Cyprus has been distasteful to many of them.

Christians.—Consist for the most part of Armenians and Greeks; of the latter, having met but few, I am unable to give an opinion.

Of the Armenians I am told that they can be divided into two classes—

1. Vastly the larger and more ignorant class, who look to Russia for assistance and aid.

2. A smaller and more educated class, consisting of the Protestant, the Catholic, and the more liberal-minded, who are inclined to look to England.

As for the grievances of the Armenians, they are no doubt serious enough. They appear to be treated unjustly, and the law strained against them and their persons and property anything but secure. They suffer a good deal from the ignorant and barbarous Turks, being treated not alone with contumely, but are frequently knocked about, and even murdered, without being able to get any adequate redress.

Still, like all oppressed nationalities, they are perhaps rather inclined to exaggerate their grievances; one advantage they certainly enjoy over the Osmanli in not being forced to serve as soldiers. Although the Armenian has many of the defects of subject races, such as cunning and deceit, I am still inclined to look upon his future as promising. He belongs to a proud and historical race, and appears far more inclined for reform than the Turk. Then, again, the Armenian is Christian, at any rate in name, which forms a link between him and Western culture. He is also, as compared to the Turk, industrious, and appears to adapt himself readily to professions and commerce. As an artizan or workman where skill is required, he is also superior to the Turk. At present the Armenians are anxiously expecting reform and assistance from England.

I have been frequently asked when these reforms are to take place, and much disappointment was expressed when I could give no answer.

As an example of the popular feeling, I may state that on my arrival at Sivas the people immediately got hold of the idea that at last the English were coming to put things to rights.

English Reforms.—On this subject the majority of those with whom I have spoken do not appear hopeful. The most hopeful I heard of it was from an American missionary, who said: "Well, it is a big job, and I wish you well through it."

Some of the criticisms I have heard are as follows: "Jealousy with which Turkish officials will regard all projects of reform and European Agents. Enormous difficulty that will be encountered in teaching the people to respect the law, and training a competent police. Loss of prestige, and therefore power, Europeans will suffer in becoming Turkish officials. Difficulty they will have in guarding themselves against the prevailing corruption, and the extreme probability that instead of being able to stem the current they will be carried away by it, and thus damage not alone themselves, but the moral influence of Europeans generally."

I must also state that there appears to be a profound scepticism among all Europeans conversant with Turkey of any reforms succeeding under the present system at Constantinople. They appear to think that viewing the huge corruption which everywhere prevails, the great hatred between the different nationalities, the loss the Sultan's Government has suffered in prestige, besides the frequent attempts at reforms which have failed, or rather made things worse than they were before, that

nothing but the gradual occupation of the country by some foreign Power able to diminish the friction between classes, and to which all can look with respect, will avail.

Many hold to the opinion that if England does not make some move to gain over the oppressed nationalities, and to see that justice is fairly and evenly dealt out, the day may not be distant when the Russians will be invited and gladly welcomed into the country, not only by the Christians, but by many of the Turks.

Considering the present state of affairs in Asia Minor, I am at a loss to see how the Government is to be carried on except by a strong and powerful and a just despotism. Giving the Turkish every advantage for good intentions, I cannot help noticing that ever since Western ideas and culture have made their appearance the Government has been losing its energy and power; in fact, it may be said to be dying of a disease called "Western civilization."

As for the present position of the people and Government, I think it may best be described as follows:—

"An anarchy without liberty; a despotism without authority."

(Signed) J. H. STEWART, *11th Hussars.*

Diarbekir, January 30, 1879.

No. 425.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 198.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Diarbekir relating to various matters of interest in that province.

Major Trotter has apparently misunderstood the directions given him as to forwarding his despatches, and I have accordingly instructed him, by telegraph, to send copies of his despatches to this Embassy for transmission to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No 425.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Diarbekir, February* 1, 1879.

IT having been intimated to me that it is your Excellency's wish that my Political despatches should be addressed to your Excellency instead of to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to state that this despatch is a continuation of the Series No. 1, Political, to No. 5, Political, addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, copies of which have already been sent to your Excellency.

The only important event of the week is the arrival here, *en route* for Constantinople, of the late Chiefs of the Kurdish rebellion, Hussein and Osman Beys. They are accompanied by their brother, Bashi Bey, and by the Sultan's "Ibrikdar," an official of whom more hereafter.

Your Excellency will recollect that in my Confidential despatch of 28th December last I stated that the Sultan had sent a telegraphic despatch to the rebel Chiefs, Osman and Hussein Beys, informing them that if they gave themselves up they should not only be pardoned, but should also be rewarded; and I now learn that on arrival here three days ago Osman Bey found awaiting him the order of the "Mejidieh" of a high class, which must have been dispatched by post from Constantinople several weeks ago.

It appears, however, that wiser counsels have since prevailed. I am unaware whether your Excellency took any action on receipt of my despatch No. 14, Political, of 28th December, and my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the same date, as well as my telegram of 10th January, in which I stated that "it is desirable Bahri Bey and his rebellious brothers should be sent to Constantinople;" but certain it is that the measures I recommended to your Excellency have been adopted, as the three brothers were sent here with a strong cavalry escort, and under arrest. They halted

here two days, and left for Constantinople this morning. I am told that they are loud in their denunciations of the Vali Pasha, and I rejoice to think that the latter appears to have the upper hand, and at last to have authority to act. My fear now is that when these Chiefs arrive at Constantinople they will, with the help of the Sultan's "Ibrikdar," poison the mind of their Imperial master against the Vali, and endeavour to get him removed. This "Ibrikdar" is, I believe, a Kurdish Chief, and, according to common report, when one day assisting the Sultan to perform his ablutions (he having been previously instigated thereto by Bahri Bey), suggested to the Sultan that the despatch of Bahri Bey to Kurdistan would be the best method of suppressing the rebellion. The rebellion has been suppressed, it is true, but some days prior to the arrival of Bahri Bey at Diarbekir the rebels had been dispersed, and the two Chiefs were in hiding. There is little doubt but there will be much intrigue in Constantinople with the object of reinstating these Beys in position and power. I may mention that it is reported that the Beys who came to this country a few months ago nearly penniless are now returning with sixty mule loads of property, the result, it is presumed, of the forced exactions made on the Kurdistan villages by the rebel Chiefs during their temporary sway over the country.

Izfet Pasha and the Vali Abdul Rahman are still at Sert, but no news has as yet been received as to their proceedings. I have arranged for the transmission of what will, I trust, be very reliable accounts of what takes place there from the pen of a Christian official who accompanies the Vali Pasha.

Ali Shefik Bey, the Imperial Commissioner for the pacification of the Dersims, has gone to Constantinople.

I was informed to-day confidentially that a telegram had just been received from the new Mutessarif of Mardin, to the effect that the zaptiehs there had struck work and dispersed to their homes, alleging as their reason for doing so that they are unable to live on the miserable pittances of caimé that are doled out to them. The zaptiehs here are from twelve to eighteen months in arrears, and have received no uniform for two years past, and I can only wonder that both they and the regular soldiery, who are equally badly off, have not mutinied long ago. At the same time, the fact that such a movement has commenced is a very serious piece, which, if confirmed, I shall at once telegraph to your Excellency.

The last mail from Constantinople brought some Armenian newspapers, one of which, of date 15th December, contains a very interesting letter from Erzeroum about the recent Armenian emigration to Russia. I have had a translation made, which I inclose for your Excellency's information. The writer is, I understand, the Secretary to the Archbishop, and is one of the advanced Liberal party. He is decidedly very indiscreet, and the Russian officials referred to may well cry "Save me from my friends." The facts detailed, however, will be found to tally well with some of the statements made in my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 13th November, to the address of Her Majesty's Secretary of State. The letter is especially interesting as well representing the ideas of the advanced party, to which, I may add, the Archbishop himself does not belong. The notice about myself to the second Postscript refers doubtless to the matters described in my despatches No. 4, Political, and No. 7, Political, of 1878.

I have in my despatch No. 3, Political, of 1879, alluded to the quarrelsome disposition of the Bishop of Diarbekir. He is now at open feud with his Council, and is said to be urging the lower classes of the Armenian populace to deeds of violence against the more respectable members of the community. I understand that some of his own priests, with whom he has quarrelled, have telegraphed to Constantinople to endeavour to get him removed, and I think if he were replaced by a man of a more conciliatory disposition the interests of the country generally would benefit by the change.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 425.

Extracts from Armenian Newspaper "Le Punch" of December 15, 1878.

(Traduction.)

COMME on sait, les vingt-cinq à trente villages Arméniens habitant la vallée d'Alachguerdo et de Bayazid, ont été victimes du "mal" d'émigration; avec la retraite des Russes, les habitants de dix à quinze villages abandonnant leurs foyers et

leurs récoltes ont suivi l'armée Moscovite. Les dix autres villages en ont fait autant; dans quelques-uns la moitié, dans d'autres un quart; à tel point, que "la patrie des ancêtres," en guise de surveillant, fut confiée à quelques habitants déguenillés de chaumières qui, faute d'avoir, s'étaient abstenu de s'émigrer. Trois quarts de la population Chrétienne se trouve en ce moment sur le territoire Russe et un quart, c'est-à-dire 300 maisons approximativement sur le sol natal.

Les amis de l'Arménisme et de l'Angleterre qui nous ont donné ces renseignements, nous ont promis, aussitôt de retour dans leur pays nous envoyer en détail la statistique des villages abstenants, ce que nous nous empresserons de vous envoyer sans retard. Quant aux émigrants et à l'esprit qui les a conduits à la fatale inspiration d'abandonner le "pays des ancêtres," voici comment les choses se sont passé:

"Malgré les fallacieuses promesses Arménophiles des Moscovites (on doit se rappeler combien se sont répenti les premiers émigrants de 1854-55), les Russes ont gardé les Arméniens en inimitié directe avec leurs voisins Kurdes, soit avant soit pendant leur retraite, et ceci dans un but Machiavélique; d'abord par le motif de ne pas fortifier l'élément Chrétien au nom de la délivrance duquel cependant on avait si solennellement déclaré la guerre (en face de l'Europe) aux Musulmans oppresseurs; en second lieu, pour que les Arméniens ainsi harcelés cherchassent dans l'émigration à l'Eden Caucasique de la Sainte Russie un asile de leur souffrance. Les paysans illétrés sont tombés dans ce piége tendu à leur naïveté, soit que leurs requêtes adressées au Catholicos d'Etchmiadzine et au Patriarche de Constantinople furent en retard, soit que l'attitude équivoque de notre Archevêque leur ait inspiré une méfiance irréfléchie."

Entretemps la mèche d'inimitié allumée par la duplicité Moscovite entre Chrétiens et Musulmans faisaient leur train. Partout la discorde régnait dans le pays enlevé aux Turcs; chaque village avait son conflit armé; les vaincus—Turcs et Arméniens—s'entre-déchiraient en face des Russes, instigateurs de l'incendie.

L'épisode la plus sanglante de l'interrègne Moscovite fut la bataille livrée entre les habitants Kurdes et Arméniens du village Ghastour à cause d'une rénégate, victime d'un rapt suivant les Chrétiens, mariée par le libre consentement suivant les Musulmans. Pendant ce conflit armé, trois à quatre des Kurdes mordirent la poussière. Ces morts n'étaient rien, c'est l'appréhension de la vengeance, à la suite de cette affaire, préparée sous-main par les Russes, que les Chrétiens devaient payer les frais d'émigration aux dépens de leur avoir et de leur avenir.

Déjà à partir de Juillet la retraite des Russes envahisseurs était une affaire décidée; c'est en ce temps que les officiers du Czar commencent à cueillir les fruits de leur machinations. L'idée d'exode s'était emparé déjà de tous les cerveaux débiles; des soi-disant Députés pullulaient dans les camps Russes. Une souscription ouverte, par l'instigation de l'Administration Russe à Tiflis, en faveur des émigrants forcés à la suite de l'armée en déroute de Der-Gougassow allèchaient la cupidité des Chrétiens déclassés. L'état des esprits ainsi préparés, six jours avant son départ, le Commandant des forces Russes à Pakrénant (Olti et ses environs), par une déclaration officielle, a confié les chefs des villages Arméniens, *ad libitum*, de suivre leur retraite (25 Août). Inutile de dire comment il dépeignait l'horreur de tomber de nouveau sous la domination Ottomane. Non content de cet avertissement, un crieur public, deux jours avant, parcourait tous les villages même très-minimes en les invitant, même, *manu militari* à émigrer (cette contrainte du Commandant est certifiée dans une lettre adressée à l'Archevêque d'Erzéroum par le Vicaire Archimandrite Jean, corroborée par la signature de quatre à cinq curés et de dix à quinze maires Chrétiens).

De cette manière les 800 maisons sus-mentionnées s'émigrèrent. Aussitôt après le départ des Chrétiens en compagnie de leur protecteurs (?) les Musulmans des environs exploitèrent les récoltes, les vignes, et les champs abandonnés, et se partagèrent en frères les meubles et les immeubles délaissés. Malheureusement pour les Musulmans comme pour les Chrétiens, les Kurdes, par leur inaptitude innée pour le labourage, ne sachant pas manier la faux, les montagnes de blé en épi furent laissées sur place et en proie à la pourriture; de là une disette accablante fondit sur les habitants des pays rendus aux autorités Ottomanes; elle fut surtout sensible aux paysans abstentionistes que s'étaient résignés de s'expatrier à cause d'indigence. Ce sont ces mêmes villages, dit-on, qui végètent, prix de leur attachement au sol natal, en ce moment dans les régions d'Alachguerdo et de Bayazid, dans une extrême misère. A part cette cause d'abstention, on assure qu'un émissaire dépêché par le Catholicos d'Etchmiadzine (comme on sait Chef suprême de l'Eglise Arménienne, comme le Pape au Vatican), malgré la pression des autorités Russes, est arrivé à temps (presque deux à trois jours après le départ des émigrants) pour les prévenir, en réponse à la requête sus-men-

tionnée, de leur fatal projet d'émigration. Cet émissaire tardif a eu cependant son influence salutaire sur les paysans d'Ardgap et de Monssoun, exceptés les habitants de Korun déjà préparés pour lesquels toute espèce de moyen de persuasion fut inutile. Suivant le Vicaire, R. P. Jean, l'Abbé de Utch-Kilissa,* qui est connu par sa résistance patriotique aux instigations Russes lors de l'émigration forcée de Der-Gougassow, les paysans récalcitrants aux paroles de leur prêtres, suivaient un mot d'ordre secret.

Après l'historique et les péripéties de l'émigration Arménienne sur le territoire Russe, le correspondant continue :—

"Enfin, a la période d'exorde, suivant les nouvelles fraîchement arrivées de sources certaines, succède une ère de réparation et de bonheur. Le Général Lazareff, le Marius des armées Russes du Caucase, l'Evêque Aghouanian, les Colonels Gamsaragan et Nicolosoff, en dépit de la consigne Moscovite et peut-être jouant leur têtes et existence travaillent publiquement à récémigrer les paysans dans leur pays natal; le Vice-Roi fait, dit-on, sourde oreille en apparence aux menées des Arménophobes de sa Cour.

"Lazareff, de sa bourse, a promis de faire les frais de retour de tous ceux qui veulent rentrer dans leurs pays. On a grand espoir au printemps prochain, au succès de cette entreprise patriotique, tellement est grand l'espoir des Arméniens dans les réformes promises par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

"Le digne et l'infatigable R. P. Abbé Jean, le très-connu ecclésiastique célèbre par sa résistance à l'émigration forcée de Der-Gougassow après la défaite des armés Russes à Zewin, est chargé de cette mission délicate, d'autant plus que se trouvant sur le territoire Ottoman (à Utch-Kilissé, entre Bayazid et Erzéroum) il donne le temps à Lazareff (Lieutenant du Czar, d'origine Arménienne et Commandant militaire à Kars) de se dégager d'une quasi-responsabilité anti-Russe. L'Abbé est en correspondance secrète avec le Général Russe.

"Deuxième Post-Scriptum.—L'effet de la propagande Gamsaragan-Nicolosoff commence à donner ses fruits; voici ce qu'on nous mande de Toprak-Kaleh au moment de fermer la lettre. 'Le Soussigné a été et sera un des piliers de réémigration. Jouissant d'une aisance relative, mais attiré par les fallacieuses promesses des Russes, j'avais émigré; cependant le repentir d'avoir abandonné tout ce que je possédais n'a pas tardé à accélérer mes pas vers le foyer paternel. Je suis si heureux dans mon village, d'autant plus que je n'ai trouvé aucune des oppressions tant prônées par le Commandant ennemi. Notre Mutessarrif Youssouf Pacha fait tout son mieux au monde pour nous faire réintégrer dans nos biens. Nous l'en remercions du fond de notre cœur.' Ce bienfait positif écrit par moi à mes connaissances et amis, tous récemment rentrèrent dans leurs foyers [*sic*]; d'autres les ont suivis tellement qu'à présent nous avons en fait de réémigrés: vingt-cinq maisons à Zedgan, huit au village de Hatchlou, dix à Khastour, six à Eritzaw, sept à Tchelgani, trois à Yahni-Tépé, &c. Nous sommes d'autant plus rassurés, que suivant les paroles assermentées de nos paysans coreligionnaires d'Erzéroum, le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique y est arrivé, qui s'occupe beaucoup des Chrétiens de même que les membres Arméniens du Piwnni-Harb (Conseil de Guerre); ils nous ont assuré en outre qu'ils ont présenté des pétitions de leurs griefs au Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique, qui les a gracieusement admis en sa présence, les a écoutés et a promis d'écrire à la Reine."

No. 426.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 199.)

My Lord, *Pera, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a petition which has reached Sir Henry Layard from the inhabitants of the district of Kirk-Kilissé, a place some 20 miles to the east of Adrianople, setting forth the fears of the Christian inhabitants of that and neighbouring districts at the prospect of the return of the Ottoman authorities.

* Pour cet Abbé voyez "Le Temps," de Paris, d'Août à Septembre, 1877.

I am indebted for the annexed translation from the Bulgarian to Dr. Long, Principal of the Robert College at Roumeli-Hissar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 426.

Petition.

Excellence,

AFTER 500 years of intolerable slavery under the Turks we were so happy as to see a day of freedom dawn for us also as people of God, but we were made still more happy when this our freedom was confirmed to us by the Treaty of San Stefano, which was brought to us by philanthropic Russia at the cost of such sacrifices. We have not been fortunate, however, to enjoy the fruits of this freedom given for men.

The Berlin Treaty came like a stroke of lightning and blasted the hearts of all Christians as they saw that philanthropic and enlightened Europe, instead of confirming to us this liberty worthy of the sacrifices it had cost, left us directly under the Turks without any guarantee for our lives, honour, or property, to become victims of the violence and arbitrary will of the barbarians and of the enemy of the Christianity.

We know not on what grounds philanthropic Europe leaves under the barbarian yoke a people who had purchased their liberty with the price of their blood, and that of their own brethren. It may be that the blood already spilt was not sufficient to wash away our sins before God. It may be that the interests of philanthropic Europe did not permit us to exist, and therefore Europe leaves us to perish under the Turkish yataghan sharpened on the throats of our brothers.

Excellency, our long life with the Turks has given us sufficiently ample ground for believing that they, basing themselves upon their religious traditions, consider the life of a Christian upon earth to be devoted ("haram"). The late atrocities committed by Turks upon Christians, and which are still fresh in our minds, have convinced us that the Turks have wished not only to carry out these traditions by the extermination of the Christians, they wished to constitute new traditions by which to accomplish the re-establishment of the Ottoman Empire. Knowing that arbitrariness, dishonesty, cruelty, and many other vices are developed in the highest degree in the Turk, we can live no longer under his rule, and we therefore humbly beg Europe to have mercy upon the Christians of Kirk-Kilissé, Bunar-Hissar, Lulé-Bourgas, Baba-Eski, and Voza-Midia, and not to deprive us of the rights accorded to our brethren in Eastern Roumelia.

Excellence, if our just desires be not taken into serious consideration by enlightened Europe, whom, with all our heart and soul we call upon to save us from the death which is threatening us, then we shall be forced to take measures of the most desperate kind, the consequences of which cannot but be lamentable and heart-rending, and which will surely result in making our country a desert waste. So that those may rejoice who so purposely applauded their victories at Berlin.

Praying that you will make known our wishes to your philanthropic Sovereign, with whom we feel sure that our voice shall not be as the voice of one crying in the wilderness, we have, &c.

(Signed by the Mukhtars of Kirk-Kilissé, Bunar-Hissar, Lulé-Bourgas, Baba-Eski, and Voza-Midia.)

No. 427.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 200.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a Report addressed by the Governor-General of Van to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to complaints he has received from the Christian population of that vilayet, which has been communicated to me by the Porte. I would call your Lordship's attention

to Hassan Pasha's statement that no Armenian emigration to Russia has taken place from the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Hassan Pasha to Carathéodory Pasha.

(Extrait.) *Le 16 Décembre*, 1878 (v.s.)

UNE pétition portant la signature du Catholicos d'Akhtamar et de plusieurs ecclésiastiques vient d'être presentée au Gouverneur-Général de Van. Les pétitionnaires réclament la restitution des effets et objets enlevés aux églises, aux couvents et aux populations Chrétiennes par les Kurdes pendant la dernière guerre; la punition des coupables; l'exécution des réformes; le rapatriement et la réinstallation des émigrés de Hakhiari, et des districts de Gouache, Mogr, et Chadakh; la cessation des causes qui ont provoqué l'émigration; la distribution de grains aux nécessiteux; l'examen et la régularisation des comptes des provisions fournies à l'armée pendant la guerre; la défalcation de leur montant des redevances dues à l'Etat par la population; le paiement échelonné par les contribuables du reste des redevances; enfin, l'empêchement des enlèvements de filles auxquels se livreraient les troupes Impériales campées à Arzu et Kourzont.

Cette pétition a été référée au Conseil Administratif du vilayet. En attendant, son Excellence Hassan Pacha fait à cet égard les observations suivantes :—"Pour ce qui est des méfaits commis sur les populations paisibles pendant la guerre, on ne saurait nier, en effet, que dans un moment où l'attention des autorités était absorbée par de graves préoccupations extérieures, certaines vexations n'aient été commises dans l'intérieur et que, notamment, les habitants des villages par où ont dû passer les troupes auxiliaires n'aient eu à souffrir. Mais les autorités locales n'ont jamais cessé de punir, en tant qu'il était en leur pouvoir, les coupables, de restituer aux propriétaires les biens volés, et de donner immédiatement suite aux plaintes qui leur étaient faites.

Il ne s'est passé aucun fait de nature à pousser la population à l'émigration et personne n'a émigré en Russie. Le mouvement des habitants de certains villages provient seulement des mauvaises récoltes de cette année qui a obligé les paysans, déjà très-pauvres, à se transporter ailleurs pour se procurer des moyens de subsistance; ce qui arrive d'ailleurs dans toute année de mauvaise récolte. Les comptes des fournitures sont réglés au fur et à mesure et leurs montants déduits de la somme des redevances dues à l'Etat par les paysans. Bref, les autorités ne négligent rien pour satisfaire aux réclamations de chacun. Quant à la distribution des grains, elle profiterait avant tout aux couvents."

Hassan Pacha termine en ajoutant qu'il a eu souvent l'occasion de signaler tant à la Sublime Porte qu'au Séraskérat l'urgence de lui envoyer des troupes qui agiraient contre les hordes insoumies de ces contrées.

No. 428.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 3*, 1879.

I HAD yesterday a conversation with Prince Labanoff, the Russian Ambassador, in which his Excellency spoke of the general situation of the Ottoman Empire, and affirmed the positive intention of the Emperor and his Government to carry out the Treaty of Berlin.

I remarked that the most difficult question which the Powers would have to deal with was the reinstallation of the authority of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia. His Excellency was aware that the population of the province was hostile, and that they had been provided with arms and ammunition by the Russian authorities.

Prince Labanoff said that he could tell me nothing with regard to this assertion. He had no news to confirm it, and he would not say that it had or it had not been done. He did know that the militia and a gendarmerie had been organized, and that gymnastic clubs had been formed in which rifle shooting was one of the principal

points of instruction. He also knew that the militia, besides the arms with which they were furnished for their daily use, were in possession of deposits of arms; and he did not attempt to say that the temper of the people and the means at their command did not give grounds for expecting an active resistance to the return of the Turks. In fact, he only saw one means of enabling this return to be effected peaceably, and that was, the nomination of an European Governor. The Bulgarians had determined that they would not again submit to the fez; and his Excellency thought that the Powers would be wise to concur in such an appointment, as it would render a peaceful solution possible without infringing the Treaty of Berlin. He added that the Governor should be either a Swiss or a Belgian. He had learnt that an Orthodox Governor would be unacceptable unless he were a Bulgarian, and he knew that a Bulgarian would never be accepted by the Powers.

I observed to his Excellency that Rustem Pasha had been accepted by all the Powers with the exception of Russia, and that I had no information which led me to suppose that Her Majesty's Government had altered their views on this subject. I was aware that his view was supported in some quarters, but I knew for certain that M. Waddington, at all events, supported the nomination of Rustem Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 429.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 4*, 1879.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 114 of the 30th January last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from the President of the Assembly of Samos, stating the satisfaction of the inhabitants at the appointment of Costaki Pasha as Prince of Samos, and expressing their thanks for the support given to their demand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 429.

M. Licatis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Samos, le 7/19 Février*, 1879.

C'EST avec une profonde gratitude que j'ai pris connaissance de l'office que votre Excellence a fait l'honneur d'adresser aux Représentants de Samos, en date du 6 Février.

M'étant empressé de communiquer son contenu à mes collègues je viens, au nom de l'Assemblée, exprimer à votre Excellence ses vifs remercîments et me faire en même temps l'interprète fidèle des sentiments de la joie et de la satisfaction avec lesquelles les habitants de l'Ile de Samos ont accueilli l'heureuse nouvelle de votre Excellence dont la haute bienveillance a daigné appuyer leurs demandes et contribuer efficacement à la nomination comme Prince de Samos de son Excellence Adossides Pacha vivement désiré par le pays tant pour ses capacités administratives que par l'intégrité de son caractère.

Nous nous considérons heureux, Excellence, d'apprécier la valeur des démarches bienveillantes et de la haute sollicitude qu'en cette circonstance même, comme en plusieurs autres, a bien voulu manifester à l'égard de ce pays privilégié le digne et honnête Représentant de la grande nation Britannique, qui, par sa politique éclairé, et équitable ayant des droits légitimes sur le dévouement des peuples de l'Orient et spécialement des habitants de Samos.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président de l'Assemblée Samienne,
(Signé) PELOPIDAS LICATIS.

No. 430.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 17.*)

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a paper I have received containing an explanation, from the Bulgarian point of view, of the disorders which have recently taken place at Adrianople, during which the Greek Archbishop was assaulted by the mob.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 430.

Memorandum.

MONSIGNOR DIONYSIUS was Bishop of Crete during the insurrection of 1867, and showed at that time such strong Turkish proclivities, that he had to leave the island. After his return to Constantinople he was appointed Archbishop of Adrianople.

In Adrianople there is a considerable Greco-Bulgarian population, which was formed when Hellenic influence was predominant in Macedonia and Thrace, and there was little or no hostility between the two nationalities. This mixed population had a church of their own, where the services were held in two languages. The priest officiated sometimes in Slavic and sometimes in Greek. The choristers on the one side chanted in Greek, and on the other in Slavic. This arrangement existed from the foundation of the church, some ten years ago, till 1876. During the insurrectionary disorders of that year, when the Turks were greatly excited against the Bulgarians, the Archbishop called the attention of the authorities to the fact, and the Vali gave orders that the use of the Slavic language should be discontinued in the services. At the same time an inscription in Bulgarian, setting forth why and by whom the church had been founded, was effaced. Considerable dissatisfaction was thereby produced among the Bulgarians, but so long as the reign of terror continued they did not venture to make any open opposition. When the Russian administration was established in the town the question was raised, and the Court before which it was brought decided that the old arrangement should be re-established. The President, who was a Greek, concurred in the decision, but the Archbishop protested, maintaining that the Court was merely provisional, and had certainly no right to interfere in ecclesiastical affairs. As an ecclesiastical affair the thing ought, he said, to be referred to the Patriarchate. The Russians, foreseeing that disagreeable consequences might arise, abstained from active interference in the quarrel, but some Bulgarians determined to execute by force the decision of the Court. For this purpose they proceeded to the church on the 13th January (New Year's day, o.s.), and demanded that Mass should be celebrated in Slav. The Greek Archbishop refused to allow them, and they forced their way into the church. The Russians were at once called in, and, in order to prevent further disturbances, they closed the church and sealed the door.

All these circumstances produced among the Bulgarian population a strong feeling of hostility to the Archbishop, which was intensified by popular rumours that he had, during the war, secretly encouraged the Turkish authorities of Adrianople in their policy of summarily executing all Bulgarians suspected of treasonable designs. There was thus a large quantity of inflammable material, and it only required a spark to produce an explosion. The spark was supplied by the arrival of Réouf Pasha, the new Vali. The Archbishop, with the leading members of the clergy, gave him a formal welcome, and report said that he had welcomed the Vali in the name of the whole Christian population. The indignation caused by this rumour, and the wish to protest against the supposed assurances of the Archbishop, were the chief causes of the disorders in which, it is said, some of the Greeks took an active part. Whilst some of the voices in the crowd accused him of instigating the Turks to pay the Bulgarians during the war, others reproached him with having delivered the Christians into the hands of their enemies during the Cretan insurrection.

No. 431.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 17.*)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 184 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the instructions which I received from your Lordship by telegraph, I stated to the Grand Vizier, on the 4th instant, that Her Majesty's Government are decidedly of opinion that he ought to uphold the Sultan's right in Eastern Roumelia, under the Treaty of Berlin, and that there is no danger of any adverse expression of opinion in England if he executes that duty with regular troops under officers charged to avoid all unnecessary severities.

I said that, in order to reassure English opinion on this subject, Her Majesty's Government will propose to his Highness to allow some English officers of high rank to accompany the Turkish regiments in order to bear witness of their conduct. I added that the agitation in England was caused by outrages on women and children, and by the slaughter of men who were clearly innocent, that neither the Ottoman nor any other Government can avoid the effusion of blood in putting down rebellion, and that if the Ottoman Government simply does what is necessary for this end it will not be blamed.

I proceeded to say that your Lordship concurred in the opinion expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Porte should occupy the Balkans as soon as the Russians left, and I informed his Highness that, on the invitation of the Russian Government, Her Majesty's Government proposed to set the Military Commission for the boundary of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria to work again as soon as possible.

His Highness requested me to express to your Lordship his best thanks for the information which was thus given to him as to the views of Her Majesty's Government, which he would communicate without loss of time to the Sultan. He went on to say that he thought if the Porte could occupy the Balkans before the evacuation of the province by the Russians the necessity for occupying the rest of the province militarily might be avoided, and he asked me to request your Lordship, in his name, to use your good offices with the Russian Government to enable the Turkish troops to go to the Balkans, while the Russians were still occupying Eastern Roumelia.

I replied that I would not fail to communicate this request to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 432.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 17.*)

(No. 209.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of the note which the Russian Ambassador, Prince Labanoff, addressed to the Porte on the 28th ultimo respecting the de Tocqueville Convention, and of the reply of Alexandre Carathéodory Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 3rd instant.

The arguments of the Russian note are combated with effect in the answer of the Porte; but the fact of Russia having asserted her priority of right with regard to all revenues not hypothecated at the date of the signature of the Treaty of Berlin has in itself caused much apprehension among the circles of financiers who have to consider the safety of new loans made to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 432.

Prince Labanoff to Carathéodory Pasha.

Péra, le $\frac{16}{28}$ *Février*, 1879.

LES journaux de Constantinople ont publié un arrangement que la Sublime Porte se propose de conclure avec un groupe de financiers étrangers pour l'unification de ses anciennes dettes et la conclusion d'un nouvel emprunt.

Bien que lui-même créancier de la Sublime Porte pour la somme de l'indemnité de guerre, le Gouvernement Impérial n'aurait élevé aucune objection contre la combinaison projetée si les hypothèques qui doivent y être affectées étaient exclusivement celles dont il est question dans le Protocole No. 11 du Congrès de Berlin.

Il importe de rappeler que dans ce Protocole le Gouvernement Impérial, pour ne pas léser les intérêts des créanciers de la Turquie, a déclaré, par l'organe de ses Plénipotentiaires, vouloir respecter toute hypothèque antérieure. En reconnaissant ainsi le droit de priorité des hypothèques déjà affectées aux anciennes dettes de l'Empire Ottoman quelles que soient leurs dénominations, le Gouvernement Impérial, qui a pris rang par ordre de date parmi les créanciers de la Turquie, a, en vertu de ce même principe, un droit incontestable de priorité à l'égard de tous les autres revenus non encore grevés d'hypothèques au moment de la signature du Traité de Berlin.

Or, pour assurer l'arrangement qui doit être conclu, la Sublime Porte offre des revenus qui n'avaient pas encore été engagés et dont quelques-uns, à l'heure qu'il est, n'existent même pas encore, comme par exemple le tribut de la Bulgarie. Une pareille mesure aurait pour effet d'aliéner par anticipation la plupart des gages disponibles les plus certains et de rendre illusoire l'obligation que la Sublime Porte a contractée de garantir l'indemnité de guerre de la Russie.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne peut non plus voir avec indifférence l'institution d'une Commission qui aurait le droit, non-seulement d'exploiter les impôts et revenus concédés, mais encore de surveiller et de vérifier la rentrée des revenus généraux de l'Empire et dans laquelle, outre les membres Ottomans, il n'y aurait que des Délégués Français et Anglais.

Les dispositions qui précèdent sont de nature à compromettre gravement les intérêts considérables que le Gouvernement Impérial doit sauvegarder, à moins que la Sublime Porte ne soit en mesure de désintéresser la Russie par le paiement intégral et immédiat de ce qui lui est dû. Mais comme tel n'est pas le cas, le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir pris connaissance du projet qui a été publié, m'a prescrit de déclarer à la Sublime Porte qu'il met opposition à la distraction de toute nouvelle hypothèque, aussi longtemps que les gages qui doivent garantir l'indemnité de guerre de la Russie n'auront pas été convenus et déterminés par une entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Sublime Porte.

Quant à l'institution de la Commission Financière, le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis que le seul moyen de concilier tous les intérêts serait l'établissement d'une Commission Financière Internationale, telle qu'elle a été prévue par le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

J'ai l'honneur, par la présente note, de m'acquitter auprès de votre Excellence de l'ordre que j'ai reçu, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) LABANOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 432.

Caratheodory Pasha to Prince Lobanoff.

Sublime Porte, le 3 Mars, 1879.

JE m'empresse de répondre à la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le $\frac{19}{28}$ Février au sujet des arrangements financiers récemment conclus par la Sublime Porte.

Votre Excellence rappelle les déclarations contenues dans le Protocole No. 11 du Congrès de Berlin qui consacre le droit de priorité des hypothèques déjà affectées aux dernières dettes de l'Empire Ottoman, et exprime la conviction qu'en vertu de ce même principe la Russie doit exercer un droit de priorité à l'égard de tous les autres revenus non encore grevés; droit qu'aurait méconnu la Porte par l'affectation de certains revenus nouveaux, tels que le tribut de la Bulgarie au service de l'opération financière récemment conclue. Enfin, votre Excellence croit devoir s'élever contre la dévolution qui aurait été faite à des Délégués Anglais et Français d'un mandat de surveillance sur les revenus généraux de l'Empire, et exprimer l'avis que le seul moyen de concilier tous les intérêts soient l'établissement de la Commission Financière Internationale prévue par le Protocole No. 18 du Congrès de Berlin.

Je prie tout d'abord votre Excellence d'être convaincue que la Sublime Porte, en adoptant les mesures financières que votre Excellence connaît, n'a point perdu de vue un seul instant les obligations réelles ou morales qui peuvent résulter pour elle du Traité du $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ 1879, ou des énonciations des Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin.

La lecture attentive de la discussion et des déclarations insérées dans le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, permet d'affirmer qu'il n'est jamais entré dans la pensée de la Porte de classer ses créanciers suivant un ordre déterminé. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont, au contraire, écarté avec soin toute idée de cette nature, en faisant remarquer que dans l'état actuel des finances Ottomanes il était impossible d'assigner l'ordre dans lequel l'indemnité de guerre pourrait trouver place dans la série des dettes de l'Etat. Aussi la Haute Assemblée s'est elle formée à prendre acte des déclarations des Plénipotentiaires Russes, affirmant que dans les questions financières la Russie respecterait les droits acquis des créanciers antérieurs, et que l'indemnité de guerre n'affectait pas en général les intérêts des créanciers de la Turquie.

Il n'y a donc eu de la part de la Porte aucun engagement direct ou indirect pouvant restreindre son droit naturel d'user de ses revenus anciens ou nouveaux, comme elle l'entend et suivant les exigences des services de l'Etat, en tenant bien entendu un juste compte des intérêts légitimes de ses créanciers.

Or, dans l'opération qui vient d'être conclue par l'arrangement Tocqueville, à la date du 3 Février, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a agi, non-seulement dans la plénitude de son droit, mais aussi a pris des engagements qui ne sauraient être raisonnablement critiqués par aucun de ses créanciers non-gagés, puisque ces arrangements ont pour effet de diminuer notablement la dette publique intérieure et extérieure, de dégager une partie notable des revenus antérieurement affectés aux emprunts extérieurs, et enfin d'amener la suppression du papier-monnaie, toutes mesures qui tendent à l'amélioration des finances et à la restoration du crédit de l'Etat.

Votre Excellence a bien voulu en effet reconnaître que le Gouvernement de la Russie en tant que créancier du Gouvernement Ottoman du chef de l'indemnité de guerre, arrêtée par le Traité du 8 Février, 1879, n'aurait point à se plaindre de ce nouvel état de choses, si parmi les affectations attribuées à la nouvelle Dette Consolidée ne figuraient certains revenus non encore engagés, tel que le tribut de la Bulgarie, mais ce grief tout spécial s'évanouit devant cette double considération d'une part que la Turquie, ainsi que je l'ai démontré plus haut, n'a jamais aliéné son droit de disposer de ses revenus pour assurer l'existence de l'Etat, et d'autre part que le tribut de la Bulgarie avait toujours été destiné dans la pensée des Puissances réunies à Berlin à être attribué aux porteurs de titres Ottomans, ainsi qu'il résulte du Protocole No. 7 du Congrès de Berlin, et du fait que les revenus généraux de l'Empire, dont le tribut de la Bulgarie fait partie, étaient déjà explicitement engagés en garantie de ces dettes. J'ajoute qu'en ce qui touche la partie afférente aux Principautés déclarées indépendantes dans les dettes publiques Ottomanes, l'énoncé seul de cette stipulation suffit pour indiquer que ce revenu doit appartenir de plein droit aux porteurs des titres de cette dette.

En ce qui concerne la Commission chargée d'administrer les contributions indirectes, et dans laquelle figurent deux membres Anglais et deux membres Français, il est de mon devoir de restituer à cette institution, aux yeux du Gouvernement Russe, un véritable caractère. Ainsi que la Sublime Porte a déjà eu l'occasion de le constater, ce mode d'administration n'a été adopté que pour donner pleine sécurité aux porteurs de titres de la Dette Consolidée, et la désignation qui sera faite par les Gouvernements Anglais et Français, sur la demande du Gouvernement Impérial, de quatre Administrateurs étrangers, ne peut à aucun titre être considérée comme un acte de nature à créer des préoccupations politiques.

Quant à la Commission Internationale recommandée à la Sublime Porte par les Puissances réunies au Congrès de Berlin, votre Excellence n'hésitera pas à reconnaître que son institution serait actuellement sans objet puisque son mandat devait consister à amener une entente entre l'Etat et ses créanciers, porteurs de titres de la Dette Publique, et que ce résultat si désirable va se trouver atteint par les arrangements financiers intervenus entre la Sublime Porte et le Représentant des Comités de Porteurs de Titres.

Votre Excellence me permettra d'espérer que ces loyales explications ne laisseront subsister dans l'esprit du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie aucun doute sur la légitimité des dernières mesures financières décrétées par la Sublime Porte, et suffira pour effacer les préventions qu'une première impression aurait pu lui inspirer à ce sujet.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 433.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 7, 1879.*

I WAS able to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 179 of the 25th ultimo, that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had promised me that the Vali of Aleppo should be dismissed, and on the 5th instant the Grand Vizier stated to me that the promise had been executed. His Highness also said that the Commission appointed to inquire into Armenian affairs from Aleppo to Diarbekir should start as soon as possible.

I begged again that the Christian prisoners, who are at Marash and Aleppo, might be released, but his Highness said that, in consequence of the representations made by the French Ambassador and by me, he had telegraphed to Aleppo to learn the advisability of clemency being extended to them. He had been informed, in reply, that among other evil deeds they were accused of burning Ottoman functionaries alive, and that, therefore, he could not undertake to recommend their release even on bail.

I said that this was the first I had heard of such an accusation, and that I believed it to be an entire fabrication; that, as his Highness was aware, I had myself been at Aleppo, and had spoken to the Vali at length regarding the prisoners, and that his Excellency had said nothing to me of such a charge; that since my return, having seen some of the Vali's official reports, I knew that he was wilfully misleading his Government, and I believed this accusation to be an after-invention, arising from the desire to shield himself, and to prevent the release of these unhappy people. The Grand Vizier replied that all he could promise me was that a strict inquiry should be made, and that if he found that the accusation had been advanced without foundation, the authors should be punished with the utmost rigour of the law.

I subsequently telegraphed to Consul Henderson, and received a reply stating that the charge against the prisoners of burning Turkish authorities alive was absolutely false, and that his French and Italian colleagues authorized him to protest against such an unfounded accusation.

I much regret that, by a sequence of circumstances, the fate of these prisoners has been linked with the question of the reforms in Armenia. The Commissions which have been appointed for the latter purpose are having their instructions prepared for them, and the examination of the charges against the prisoners, and an inquiry into the troubles at Zeitoun, are among the duties of the Commission which is to proceed to Aleppo and Diarbekir. The preparation of the instructions for these Commissions, which are to be charged with so serious a matter as the reforms necessary over a vast territory, are likely to take a long time.

It is not desirable that they should be drawn up hastily. The subject is in no way inferior in importance to that of the reforms to be introduced into the European provinces under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and your Lordship is aware of the small progress which this part of the execution of the Treaty has made.

I am, therefore, anxious to propose to the Porte that the question of the troubles at Zeitoun should be separated from the question of the general reforms in Armenia, and that the Commission now named, consisting of Mazhar Pasha and Nourian Pasha, should be ordered to start immediately, and be charged only with an examination of the accusations against the prisoners, and the adoption of such temporary measures as may be necessary for the tranquillity of the district of Zeitoun.

With regard to the reforms, I suggest that the system applied to the special Commissions to be appointed to the provinces of European Turkey should receive extension to the Asiatic provinces. It is not to be expected that the two Commissions now named, consisting of one Mussulman and one Christian, can arrive at a solution of the great questions of establishing reforms which shall produce good government, and satisfy the local requirements. The Commissions appointed for this purpose should be composed of persons representing local interests as well as the interests of the Porte, and, therefore, the special Commissions which will be the result of Article XXIII will form good models. A Mussulman and an Armenian, who are in the official service of the Porte, may be able to collect evidence from all sources, but it is clear that they cannot have such a representative character as is desirable in a body charged with reforming a nation. The large representation of the local element in such bodies was insisted on by the Powers with regard to the provinces of Europe, and if we wish to see some hope restored to the suffering populations of Asiatic Turkey, Her Majesty's Govern-

ment should insist upon the same principle being adopted with regard to the provinces in which England has acquired a special interest through the Convention of the 4th June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 434.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1879.*

THE Grand Vizier spoke to me on the 5th instant respecting the nomination of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia; his Highness said that it had been represented to him that with a view to tranquillity in the province, when the time came to reinstate the authority of the Sultan, it was very advisable that an European Governor should be named, instead of a functionary of the Porte. His Highness could not assent to this view. It appeared to him that if the object of the persons who advocated it was the better government of the province, Rustem Pasha, whose administrative abilities had been recognized in the Lebanon, would be as capable as a Swiss or a Belgian, and that if their object was to weaken the ties which united the province to the rest of the Empire, the Sultan's Ministers could not certainly advocate it. For his part, he really did not see what the people of Eastern Roumelia were to rebel against; the Turkish troops would be in the mountains, and the only Turkish functionary in their midst would be the Governor-General, who would be alone; surely their apprehensions would be allayed when they saw that there was absolutely no coercive force in the province.

I replied that his Highness was already aware of the views of Her Majesty's Government; that they had approved of the selection of Rustem Pasha, and that I had received no instruction indicating that they had in the least degree modified their views with regard to it. But I said that provision must be made for the safety of the Governor-General; that this could only be done, I feared, by surrounding him with a force to protect his person. This force might be composed of "gendarmerie," and the resistance of the population might be levelled against it, and so bring about the necessity of further interference.

If such necessity unhappily arose he was aware that he could count upon the support of Her Majesty's Government, provided the measures adopted were in accordance with the principle laid down in the communication I had just had the honour to make to him, as recorded in my despatch No. 208 of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 435.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 213. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1879.*

I WENT yesterday to M. Fournier, the French Ambassador, and found Abedin Boy, late Turkish Commissioner at Prevesa, with his Excellency. The Bey was asking his Excellency to take some means to let the populations of Albania know that the rights of landed proprietors would be respected on territory which might be ceded to Greece. M. Fournier refused to take any steps in the matter, saying that the idea that property would be interfered with by the Greeks was absurd, and that it had been suggested by Abedin Bey himself, with the object of exciting opposition to Greek pretensions, that he therefore doubted Abedin Bey's good faith in making any representation to him on the subject.

Abedin Bey went on to request his Excellency's views as to what advice he should give to the Porte regarding the instructions which it should send to Moukhtar Pasha. M. Fournier said that if the Porte offered a line running from the Arta in a north-westerly direction to the Peneus, and following that river to the mouth, he thought that it would probably be supported by the Powers.

On his Excellency's leaving the room for a moment, Abedin Bey asked me the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and I said that I had no instructions, but I told him that if the Porte was prompt and prudent it might save the part of Albania, including Janina, and that it had better make up its mind to offer a line which began at the mouth of the Peneus.

M. Fournier's suggestion to Abedin Bey is particularly noticeable, as I have been informed confidentially by the Greek Minister that M. Fournier, having his own views with regard to the non-advisability of Janina becoming Greek, had transmitted them to his Government, and had been told in reply to support the line suggested in the 13th Protocol, and to include Janina in it.

The Greek Minister told me very confidentially that M. Fournier had within the last few days, through a third person (probably Captain Dreysset), submitted a Memorandum on the subject of the cession to be made to Greece to the Sultan.

The question arises, whether M. Fournier in this Memorandum urged his own views or those of his Government? His practice with the Grand Vizier seems to be to state the views of his Government and to add his own. In speaking to Abedin Bey yesterday he certainly entirely departed from his instructions as he opposed the surrender of Janina. Abedin Bey has informed the Porte that there is great activity among Austrian Agents in Albania. The same reports are rife in Macedonia. I observe that M. Fournier lends credence to them, and that he is as suspicious of the intentions of Austria as the Porte itself.

Abedin Bey was recalled from his post at Prevesa at the instigation of M. Fournier, prompted by representations of the Bey's corruption and misconduct made to his Excellency by the Greek Minister. M. Fournier told me that Abedin Bey is at this moment offering to use his influence in Albania, where he is an influential proprietor, in favour of the Greek cause if the Greek Government will promise him 300,000 fr. in case of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 436.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 214. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1879.*

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by telegram on the 3rd instant that an intrigue was on foot to win over the Sultan and the Grand Vizier to the idea of naming an European Governor to Eastern Roumelia, and that the person suggested for the post was M. Coutouli, Assistant French Commissioner at Philippopolis.

It appears that a Frenchman of high birth but fallen fortunes, M. de Castellane, son of the Marshal of France, and who now represents M. Hersch, the railway contractor at Constantinople, had recently been at Adrianople, where he had broached the subject to Réouf Pasha, the Governor-General, and had so far impressed him with the importance of the matter that his Excellency had given him a letter to the Grand Vizier, requesting that M. de Castellane might be allowed to state his views to his Highness. The Grand Vizier so far received the project that he invited M. de Castellane, after a conversation on the subject, to submit to him a Memorandum with regard to it. M. de Castellane is not so good with his pen as with his tongue, and he consequently enlisted the good offices of M. Fournier, the French Ambassador, for the literary part of his intrigue. The Memorandum has been presented to the Grand Vizier, and the gentleman from whom I have these details informs me that he has seen it, and that it bears strong internal evidence of the Ambassadorial authorship.

I must here remark that the Grand Vizier spoke to me on the subject of the nomination of the Governor-General, as reported in my despatch No. 212 of to-day, after he had spoken to M. de Castellane, and before he had received the Memorandum.

There is in these intrigues a point which has induced me to speak very confidentially on the subject to Carathéodory Pasha.

M. de Castellane, not content with his direct steps with regard to the Grand Vizier, has also thought it advisable to prepare the mind of the Sultan, and he has selected Said Pasha to undertake this delicate task.

I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I thought this step of M. de Castellane was fraught with considerable danger to the Grand Vizier. Said Pasha was known to be an enemy of his Highness. It was probable that, instead of using the information given him by M. de Castellane for the purposes for which it was intended, he would very likely use it to poison the mind of the Sultan against the Grand Vizier. It was so easy to say to His Majesty, "Your Grand Vizier is trying to undermine your Imperial rights." One of these days he will even propose to you to allow a foreigner in no way connected with the Empire to be Governor-General of East Roumelia. I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he would be better able to judge of the justice of my fears than I could be, but that I had ventured to mention them to him, as I attached the greatest importance to the stability of the Grand Vizier in the favour of the Sultan, and that as his Highness probably did not know of M. de Castellane's intrigue with Said Pasha, he might incur a danger for which he was unprepared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 437.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople and Vice-Consul at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 437.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Adrianople, March 3, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the evacuation of this province by the Russian army and its reoccupation by the Ottoman troops is being proceeded with in conformity with the arrangements agreed to between General Todleben and Réouf Pasha.

These arrangements are calculated to insure the transfer of authority being effected under peaceable and orderly conditions. The same plan will be adopted with regard to this town and the rest of the province as has already been satisfactorily carried out at Lulé-Bourgas; the Turkish advanced guard and the Russian rear-guard entering the same place simultaneously, and the latter continuing its retreat after one or two days joint occupation.

The Turkish forces employed on this service consist of three divisions with their full complements of cavalry. Of these, one division will occupy Kirk-Kilissé on the 6th instant. Another will enter Adrianople on that and the following day. Of the third division one brigade arrived at Demotica on the 27th ultimo, and the second will be stationed at Lulé-Bourgas as a reserve to be directed in case of need either on Kirk-Kilissé, Demotica, or Adrianople.

The final evacuation of Adrianople and the adjacent districts will commence on the 7th, and be completed, it is hoped, on the 12th instant.

General Todleben will quit this town at 10 P.M. on the 6th instant. General Skobeleff will, as already stated, remain here for a few days after the departure of the army, with a small Russian detachment to co-operate if necessary in the preservation of public tranquillity.

Notwithstanding Russian professions of a desire to calm the minds of the Christian population, there can be no doubt that Panslavic agitation is at work to induce a further emigration from this province. Although these machinations are of a far less open and energetic character than those set on foot in October last, and whilst it does not seem likely that they will result in another exodus on the same scale as then, it is but too evident that a similar unreasoning dread of Turkish vengeance again prevails among a large section of the Christian inhabitants of the rural districts, and that these, undeterred by the proof which experience has furnished of the

groundlessness of the fears entertained last autumn, are in their turn meditating flight.

It is necessary to add that the above remarks do not apply in every particular to the district of Demotica. In those parts, now as on the former occasion, the fears of the Christians are, perhaps, not altogether unfounded. In consequence of some special information received by me from a trustworthy person, a Bulgarian just arrived from Demotica, I communicated to-day with Réouf Pasha, and I am led to infer from what his Excellency said that that information is correct.

It appears that on Thursday last, the 28th ultimo, two Turkish notables of Demotica were sent by the Ottoman authorities at that place to confer with Djanavarli Ismaïl Aga, the Chief in command of the neighbouring Rhodope district, whose lines are within five hours' distance of Demotica. The object was, of course, to exhort the Chief to abstain from any attack on the Christian population outside his lines on the withdrawal of the Russians. The tenour of the Chief's reply is reported to have been far from satisfactory. He is said to have answered that as he and his people were not indebted to the Sultan for the success of their struggle against the Russians, they did not feel themselves bound to engage themselves to do anything but what they might choose. As stated in my despatch reporting the first outbreak of the Rhodope movement (No. 3 of the 10th April last), this same Djanavarli was at one period of his life a brigand Chief; and it is therefore the more probable that his lawless instincts have really led him to assume a refractory attitude.

Réouf Pasha neither admitted the truth of the above statement nor yet contradicted it. The precautionary measures which he informed me he had taken in that quarter leave, however, little doubt on my mind that it is in substance well-founded. Independently of the disposal of the three above-mentioned divisions, one brigade from Gumurdjina and another from Bulair have been ordered to march towards the Rhodope, and, in fact, to replace the Russian troops echeloned along the lines in that quarter. When this task has been accomplished as far as Demotica the division at present quartered there will be distributed along the rest of the line up to the Roumelian border near Mustafa Pasha.

Whether these measures will reassure the Christians in that part of the country remains to be seen. As already pointed out in my reports regarding the exodus of last autumn the inhabitants, both Bulgarian and Greek, of Demotica and in the vicinity of the Rhodope lines, besides being in an exceptionally exposed situation, are more largely compromised than the generality of their countrymen in the rest of the province, and the feeling of alarm is proportionately greater.

As regards other places where uneasiness prevails Réouf Pasha has sent Christian notables who are well affected towards the Porte, and who at the same time enjoy the confidence of their co-religionists to endeavour to allay the prevailing apprehensions; and it may reasonably be hoped that their efforts will prove successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 437.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Mulet.

Prevesa, February 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that M. Kypriotis informs me that a petition signed by 130 Christians of Janina was forwarded on the 30th ultimo to King George of Greece, praying His Majesty to insist upon the cession of the whole of the territories as prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin, and above all to insist upon the cession of Janina.

It is expected that the Turco-Greek Commission will conclude their labours in the course of next week.

I have also the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the French Government have established a Consular Agency at Arta. M. Fournier de Larochette, who has been appointed to that post, left for Arta on Tuesday last.

Since the recall of Abedin Bey most of the Albanians have returned to their homes.

Arrivals to Greece from Turkey are now subjected to a quarantine of twenty-one days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 437.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Janina, February 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, according to information received from various quarters, the Albanians have of late commenced to arm, and are preparing themselves just as if a national war were imminent. The Mussulmans of Janina hold nightly meetings, and have resumed their threatening attitude, which they somehow set up in opposition to the idea of the Christians, which arises from the secretly nourished conviction that the district of Janina has been definitely ceded to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 438.

Vice-Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 25. Political.)

My Lord,

Canea, Crete, March 3, 1879.

HALF of the past week was occupied by the Cretan General Assembly in discussing a plan for establishing offices of public notaries throughout the island. Hitherto all title-deeds have been registered by the Cadi. Henceforth it is proposed that there shall be two central offices, one here and one in Candia, with twenty-three offices depending on them. These offices will be opened wherever a "Juge de Paix" holds his sittings, whose clerk will do the usual duties of the notary public, receiving 20 per cent. of the fees as compensation.

The Deputies spent the rest of the week in endeavouring to devise a plan for extinguishing the debts contracted by the Cretan peasant farmers previously to the insurrection of 1866. This question was never settled by the Government as it ought to have been, as it seemed to fear exciting discontent if it insisted on the complete extinction of these old debts. The local merchants, who are the creditors, have meanwhile not ceased demanding their settlement, but were ready to make sacrifices in favour of their poorer debtors, provided that all paid according to their means. The plan drawn up by the Committee appointed by the Assembly is the following:—

All persons whose debts were contracted at dates previous to the 13th May, 1866, shall be divided into the three following categories:

In the first category shall be included those who are considered capable of paying their debts from the revenue of their property within three years, interest being calculated on the original principal at 12 per cent. per annum.

The second category shall embrace those who can pay in five years, interest being reduced to 9 per cent.

The third category shall include those who can pay in eight years, also at 9 per cent.

In the two latter classes interest will not be demanded during the three years of the insurrection.

It is much to be feared that if this scheme be sanctioned by the Porte those who are not honestly desirous of paying their debts will continue to evade their payment. It may be confidently stated that all those who are in a condition to pay might have liquidated their debts before this, and that therefore they will manage to put off their complete payment till the terms allowed to creditors for enforcing payment have elapsed. Some of the Deputies are opposed to the arrangement explained above, but the majority are bound to vote as desired by their constituents, who are too generally interested in the question. It is probable that Photiades Pasha will counsel the Porte not to sanction a plan which will tend to destroy the credit formerly enjoyed by the peasantry, and will bring ruin on numerous orphans whose little capitals have been placed by their guardians in these insecure investments. Moreover, several of the principal creditors are foreign subjects whose bills can hardly be dishonoured as long as their debtors are solvent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 439.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 6, 1879.

FROM my despatch on the subject, your Lordship would have seen that, as far back as the 29th January the Government had taken the initiative for the purpose of bringing about the adoption, by the Legislature, of the forms required by the Constitution with a view to enable the future Chambers to remove from Article 7 of the Charter the paragraph preventing non-Christians from acquiring Roumanian rights of citizenship.

As the Constitution requires that the Bill or Resolution to that effect should be not only identical in the wording adopted by both Chambers, but that it should be moved or read on the same day in each, much time was lost in Committee in settling the preliminary proceedings with reference to this subject.

This being the first occasion when it is proposed to amend the Constitution since its promulgation in 1866, it was necessary to create a precedent which would be sufficiently acceptable to all parties and could be followed in future.

After much discussion, it was decided that the wording of the resolution of this importance should be drawn up by Special Commissions of both Chambers in conjunction with the Ministers, and that its first reading should take place simultaneously both in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate prior to any discussion on the subject.

This was accordingly done on the 4th instant.

As it was impossible to limit the debate on the subject and to secure beforehand that the voting upon it should coincide on particular days, it was further determined that the date of moving the resolution should be considered as the day on which it had been read and not the day of voting upon it.

In this way the second reading will have to take place on the 19th instant, and the third and last one will have to take place on the 3rd April next.

After it has been voted the Chambers will close and a dissolution will follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 440.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 7, 1879.

WITH reference to the amendment of the Constitution with a view to enable non-Christians to enjoy citizenship, and the political rights attached to it, in Roumania, the Resolution moved in both the Chamber and the Senate is exactly similar, and is to the following effect:—

"In conformity with Article 129 of the Constitution, it is declared that it is necessary to amend its Article 7."

The above wording was agreed upon by the majority of both Commissions and by the Government, with the understanding that it was inconvenient to introduce the Resolution with any preamble or motives.

M. Bratiano is said to have been at first favourable to some sort of preamble, but to have subsequently adopted the views of M. Carp and other leaders of the opposition in the Senate, by recommending its entire omission.

Some of the extreme partisans of the present Government, who are known by their hostility to the Jews, represents Moldavian electoral districts, and are designated as "La Fraction," have followed on the present occasion the leadership of M. Vernesco, who insisted in the Commission on the insertion of a preamble, by which it would be declared that religious intolerance never existed in Roumania, that as far back as 1864 facilities were given by Article 16 of the Civil Code for the individual naturalization of non-Christians, subsequently suspended by the insertion of a paragraph in Article 7 of the present Constitution.

That it is expedient to amend that paragraph.

This preamble would indirectly imply that the faculty of naturalizing native Jews individually should be restored, and its non-acceptance by the Government can serve as an indication of its desire to adopt a much more liberal course, should the composition of the future Chambers allow of its doing so.

M. Boerescu was alone in the Commission of the Senate in favour of a more extensive revision of the Constitution, including several Articles of it, which have, however, no reference to the present question.

These different views, which do not affect, however, the main question, will probably be persevered in during the debates which have commenced in the Chamber, and are to follow afterwards in the Senate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 441.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 83. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 7, 1879.

THE recent attitude of the Russian Court towards this country appears to me sufficiently important, in connection with the ambitious plans of that Power, as to deserve much more attention than it appears to receive, more especially from Austro-Hungarian statesmen, who ought, one would imagine, to show incessant vigilance to similar proceedings, as directing the destinies of the Power more immediately interested in their results.

The system pursued by Russia towards these Principalities has been all along one of alternate coaxing or bullying, the latter of which has been adopted towards Roumania, and is being actively prosecuted since the unsuccessful visit of General Ignatieff here twelve months ago.

The geographical configuration of Roumania makes it more than ever necessary for Russia to secure in her a docile handmaid for any future aggressive purposes.

Bulgaria and Servia, with their trained militias, will constitute for Russia for many years to come an excellent basis of operations either against Turkey or against Hungary; but, until Roumania is coaxed again into acquiescence, and with the possibility of her hostility, these forces are neutralized.

Should Russia be able to succeed in getting Roumania again on her side—and the possibility of this must not be altogether lost sight of—Austria would then have Russian outposts from Cracow to the mouth of the Drina (frontier between Servia and Bosnia), and would in such a case be even less disposed than she was during the last war to oppose Russia actively in the field; whilst if she herself were attacked by Russia she would be exposed to the imminent danger of seeing some of her own subject races turn against her.

Too much reliance appears to me to be placed on the natural irritation prevailing just now in Roumania owing to the recent attitude of Russia. Instead of stimulating other Powers to secure some permanent influence in this country for the purpose of establishing strong positions against future Muscovite places, a somewhat childish satisfaction is manifested at the temporary discomfiture of Roumania by her powerful ally, and matters are allowed to take their natural course.

For my part, a long and careful study of Russian policy convinces me that the bullying so extensively practised here at present is a systematic game, having no other object in view than properly preparing the way for a future reconciliation, when the time appears more favourable, and more pliable men than the present ones are again in office.

That the possibility of such a change is not totally inadmissible is evident from the tone of alarm displayed at the symptoms of ill-humour of Russia by many members of the great Boyar families.

On the other hand, the wistful looks cast towards Transylvania by many extreme members of the National party clearly show how attractive any prospect of an extension of territory in that direction would be to a large section of the community.

The Roumanian-speaking population of Transylvania and of the Bucovina is estimated at nearly 3,000,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 442.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to the instructions received from your Lordship by telegraph, I have the honour to report that the question of carrying out religious equality in Roumania is at length assuming shape and making some progress.

Your Lordship will find in my preceding despatches an account of the various stages through which it is passing, and of the obstacles and delays which have to be overcome before it can be finally settled by the future Chambers which have to be elected for that purpose.

It is expected that the Resolution which has been read for the first time in both Chambers for that purpose, preliminary to a dissolution, will be voted by considerable majorities.

The third and last reading must irrevocably take place on the 3rd April next, and when that has been accomplished the situation of Roumania will be exactly similar to the one which Serbia occupies at this moment with regard to the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin.

In both Principalities the principle of religious equality will have been accepted solemnly by the Legislatures, but its application will be left to future Assemblies elected *ad hoc*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 443.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 8, 1879.*

I CONSIDER it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the information which reaches me from different sources, and according to which there is an increasing probability that the proceedings of the Bulgarian Assembly at Tirnova will be protracted in such a way as to render the election of a Prince within the appointed time almost impossible.

If this should turn out to be true, an attempt will possibly be made to prolong the provisional Russian Civil Administration beyond the time assigned by Article VII of the Treaty of Berlin.

The evacuation of the Russian army has commenced, but it is proceeded with such remissness that there is, in my opinion, little hope of its terminating entirely as regards Bulgarian territory within the next eight weeks, unless much stricter orders are sent in time to its subordinates by the Imperial Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 444.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Jacobson, the Russian Consul at Jassy, who is Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation here, is a gentleman who has been employed in this country for a good many years by his Government; and from his intimacy with a great many influential persons, and agreeable manner, he is likely to exercise a soothing influence here.

Mr. Jacobson has studied the condition of the Jews in Moldavia carefully, and entertains very strong opinions on the subject of the danger to this country from a large admission of that class of persons to political rights.

Similar views are known to be entertained by his Government, and Prince Gortchacow brought them forward prominently at the Congress (Protocol No. 17). The manner in which people here are reminded of this just at the present moment is

not conducive to render the task of the Roumanian Ministers more easy, or the exigencies of the other Powers more acceptable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 445.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 10, 1879.*

COLONEL FALCOYANO, who had been sent to Constantinople by this Government under the impression that the Ambassadors of the foreign Powers there would be glad to receive information on the subject of Arab-Tabia and the disputed boundary, returned a couple of days ago.

He was assured by the different Ambassadors that, should they have to vote on the subject, they would be guided entirely by the instructions they might receive from their respective Governments; and he soon came to the conclusion that any arguments he might state on behalf of his Government were not likely to produce any effect, and that therefore his stay there was unnecessary.

From information received here from Berlin, it would appear that the Russian Cabinet perseveres in its desire to settle this question by a separate private arrangement with Roumania, and that the German Government inclines to such an arrangement.

If I may be allowed to say so, nothing appears to me more objectionable, from an European point of view, than such a solution, not only as regards the present question, but as a precedent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 446.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 13, 1879.*

THE debates in the Senate were only concluded last night, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph, and the result has been a large majority in favour of the resolution, as I had expected.

The text of this declaration does not, as your Lordship will have observed, anticipate in any way on the determinations of the future Chambers, who would in any case not be bound by any wishes which these might think proper to place on record as to substitutes desirable after the abrogation of Article VII.

The Constitution gives the future Assembly full power in this respect, and it only debars it of the right to touch any other Articles of the Constitution except such as have been indicated by the present Legislature.

When the obstacle to future legislation has been removed in a Constitutional way by amending Article VII, it will be possible to deal with the status of Jews or Mussulmans in any way that the Prince, with the consent of the two ordinary Chambers, may think proper or advisable.

Up to this moment the Ministers have carefully abstained from any statement which might indicate in the slightest degree how they propose legislating on this question when the principle has been constitutionally accepted by the removal of Article 7 from the Charter.

Their silence is, I am assured by their friends and by persons well acquainted with the country, due to their anxiety not to incur unpopularity at the approaching elections, and give a dangerous weapon into the hands of their political opponents.

The extreme party, under M. Vernesco, have openly declared themselves opposed to any other admission of Jews to citizenship except by individual naturalization.

The Government have resisted successfully the insertion of any preamble favourable to such a solution, not by saying it was inadmissible, but by calling it inopportune.

Even the speeches of the regular opposition have thrown no light on the views of its representatives in either Chamber with respect to the actual working out of the question.

No one wants to commit himself too soon in public on the subject, not even those who profess themselves favourable to extensive Jewish rights in private.

Besides the usual arguments to show the danger to Roumania from a large admission of an alien element to political rights, it was pointed out how much resistance had to be overcome, even in England, before a man so prominent as Baron Rothschild was admitted to the House; and a community so small in numbers, and in every way so respectable as the one to which he belongs in Great Britain, was allowed to exercise full political rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 447.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, March 7, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7, Political, of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a notice has been lately issued warning the peasants that those who do not cultivate their holdings and faithfully fulfil all obligations towards their landlords will be liable to punishment. This is probably but an empty menace, and during a conversation I had yesterday with General Jovanovic, his Excellency, while admitting the gravity of the question, expressed his opinion that it would be very difficult and even unadvisable to proceed to any extreme measures of coercion. It is hoped, however, that the mere fact of the authorities taking notice of the matter and discountenancing the present action of the peasantry may have a salutary effect, and I am told that within the last few days many peasants from this neighbourhood have started for Servia to purchase cattle for agricultural purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 448.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, March 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Mufti of Taslidza, who took such a leading part last year in the opposition offered to the Austrian occupation, is said to be again on the move in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar—to be stirring up the people and organizing armed bands. Whether his intention be to attack the Austrians in Bosnia and rekindle the Mussulman insurrection, as many persons pretend, or merely to be ready to oppose the Austrian advance into the district of Novi-Bazar, should it be decided on, I cannot say, but if it be the former I do not think he is likely to meet with much success.

General Jovanovic states that he has reliable information that the Mufti receives money from Constantinople for insurrectionary purposes, but whether from the Porte or from private individuals he does not pretend to say.

Rumours are rife here in town that the Mufti has already attacked the Austrians and forced their outposts to fall back on Cainica and Visegrad, but General Jovanovic assures me that there is not a word of truth in these reports, and that not a shot has been fired on either side. Troops, however, are being sent forward to strengthen the garrisons along the frontiers of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 449.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a despatch, marked 51, from his Excellency Sir H. Elliot, regarding the objection raised by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the candidature of Bogio Petrovich for the Bulgarian Principality.

If such a candidature was ever seriously contemplated by the Russian Government, it has certainly been abandoned for some time past; though whether from want of real purpose on the part of those who originally started the idea, as the language of Prince Doudoukoff and other Russian officials would seem to imply, or from the evident difficulty of imposing such a candidature on the Bulgarians themselves, as I, in a measure, incline to think, can hardly be determined, nor does the proposal seem likely to recur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 450.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March 10, 1879.*

I HAD the honour, on the 7th instant, of dispatching to your Lordship the following telegram:—

"Serious disturbances reported from Macedonia; general insurrection expected in a few weeks. No trustworthy intelligence can be got here; a reliable agent at Kustendil much required; can I look out for one?

"Reports of intended Servian co-operation with a Bosnian rising in the spring gain ground."

Kustendil is mentioned in the above telegram because its proximity to the disturbed districts renders it a probable focus of any intrigue, supposing such to exist, connected with movements across the frontier, and because it is a good centre of observation for whatever passes in Central and Western Macedonia: Sophia itself is the best position for intelligence from the Servian frontier. While at Tirnovo I am practically cut off from communication with both the above-named districts; and while distance renders indistinct, political excitement gives its own colouring to every rumour that reaches this place.

To remedy these and other analogous inconveniences the Austrian, French, and Italian Consulates-General have each a permanent and salaried official of inferior rank resident at Sophia; and the Russian Consular Diplomatic Staff has followed their example. The want of some arrangement of the kind places our own service here at a great disadvantage; nor are trustworthy and efficient subordinates easily found in this country: I might, however, endeavour to obtain such, if authorized by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 451.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly of "Notables" opened on the 22nd of last month has not yet entered on the special task for which it was convoked, namely, the elaboration of the Organic Law. Its meetings, seven in all, including that of to-day, have been taken up with verifying the titles of the members, reviewing the programme for the regulations of the Assembly itself, electing a President, two Sub-

Presidents, Secretaries, and so forth, and listening to a detailed statement, laid before them, by order of the Russian Commissary, of the method and acts of the Russian Provisional Government from the time of its establishment down to the present date. Yet the original intention was that the entire Organic Law should have been discussed and elaborated before Easter; and on no point did the Russian Commissary and his notary at the Assembly, M. Lukianoff, more strongly insist. At present, with only four weeks at most free before the Easter solemnities, the dispatch of work before the assigned term seems difficult, if not impossible.

Much anxiety is felt in various quarters at the delay and loss of time hitherto, and nowhere is it more strongly felt, in appearance at least, and manifested than among the Russian officials and by the Russian Commissary himself. And the question is daily asked: To what cause is the slowness of proceedings in the Assembly to be attributed?

So far as I have been able to observe, a great clumsiness, due to inexperience of Parliamentary forms and the usages of popular meetings, both among the members themselves and their Russian guides, is at least an auxiliary cause. Time is wasted on minutious and superfluous questionings, on unnecessary formalities, on the vanity of new orators, and the like. The meeting is postponed one day for a fast, another for a festival, and the sittings when held, though fatiguing from accessory discomforts which experience would have easily provided against, are themselves too short for the daily work on hand.

But besides all this, many suspect the Russian Provisional Government of intentionally prolonging the Session, in order thereby to prolong its own lease of existence. However, the overt acts of that Government, which all tend, awkwardly, it is true, to facilitate and urge forward the work of the Assembly, do not correspond to such a suspicion. Besides, a literal fulfilment of the terms of the Berlin Treaty, a fulfilment incompatible with the indefinite prolongation or nullification of the Assembly and its task, seems to be now as much the Russian programme as the elusion of those very terms appeared to be before. Nor is the one course necessarily inconsistent with the other. Hence the popular Bulgarian mind, though rendered by experience sufficiently suspicious of the policy and intents of the Provisional Government, does not, I find, countenance this particular idea, nor does it, under the circumstances, appear intrinsically probable to me.

Another cause is suggested, namely, the desire openly avowed by a few of the most violent Ultras, when baffled in their first attempt to break up the Assembly altogether in favour of mob rule, to cause its work to drag on incomplete till a date beyond that of the Russian evacuation, in order thereby to induce absolute confusion, and so undo, at least in part, the work of Berlin. But the unreasonableness and absurdity of such proceedings have been so strongly exposed, not only by myself, and, I believe, my colleagues, but by the Russian officials themselves, fearful of the responsibility of connivance at such a plan, that I cannot think this cause either sufficient to explain the dilatoriness complained of.

Others, again, remarking that the Ultras were chiefly those who had formerly been connected with projects supposed to be favoured by another Power, and that such a connection seemed to be still maintained; also that in their vague talk mention had been often made, it was said, of the possibility of such a Power being called in to maintain order, should it be threatened after the Russian evacuation, have fancied an influence of that nature at co-operating to the delay in the due elaboration of the Constitution. But this hypothesis, however originated, seems too devoid alike of internal probability as of external confirmation, for serious attention.

However those things may be, the progress of events, within the Assembly as outside, must soon clear up the matter. Meanwhile, I would respectfully subjoin, the causes actually and undoubtedly existing, signalled in the third paragraph of this despatch, may seem sufficient to account for the loss of time in question, without having necessarily recourse to any one, or all conjointly, of the three hypotheses subjoined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 452.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 40, dated the 1st of the present month, and inclosing a copy of despatch No. 113 of the 25th February, 1879, addressed by your Lordship to his Excellency Sir H. Elliot, and transmitting his Excellency Count Karolyi's statement, that it was reported that on all occasions on which Mr. Palgrave had an opportunity he exerted his influence on the side of the Russians, who reaped a very serious advantage from this conduct on his part, which it produced upon the populations was doing great injury and tending to prevent the development of the policy advocated in common by the British and Austro-Hungarian Governments.

Your Lordship adds that similar complaints have been addressed to your Lordship by the Ottoman Ambassador under instructions from his Government.

These reports and complaints are, I now most respectfully beg leave to state, utterly unfounded and false. My whole influence, such as it is, has been from my first arrival in Bulgaria to the present moment steadily exerted towards the placing of affairs within the Principality on the footing defined by the Treaty of Berlin; and the effect has been, on the one hand, considerably to hamper the Russians, and, on the other, to withdraw the native population from Russian influence, and to turn their face towards other European Powers, and, I admit, especially England. The facts are of public notoriety, and to none known better than to the Russians themselves.

In regard of the complaints transmitted by his Excellency the Ottoman Ambassador, I make the same assertion, adding that I had the honour, in my late despatch No. 30, Political, to meet the only one distinctly formulated with a distinct and conclusive answer. To vague accusations I can only oppose a general, but emphatic, denial.

As the Ottoman Commissary and the Austrian Delegate in Bulgaria have not only never manifested to me in word or deed, positively or negatively, so much as a hint corresponding to the reports or complaints alluded to, but have, on the contrary, always expressed themselves as strictly and intimately in accord with me, and even thankful, as indeed was suitable, for the great help I have given them both, more than to any others of my colleagues, in advice, information, and support, I cannot suppose that the reports and complaints in question have been originated by them.

But whatever the cause, or originator of these calumnies, I most deeply regret that the impression left by them upon the minds of the Foreign Ministers of the two Courts alluded to should have been unfortunately the very reverse of that which, in the interests of the English policy, was to be desired. And I humbly and earnestly trust that an exacter knowledge of facts, past or future, may not only dissipate any such impression, but may preclude its recurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 453.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 42, present year, on the subject of an order of the day issued by the Russian General Stolipine at Philippopolis on the 12th of January, regarding certain gymnastic associations, formed among the East Roumelian population, and intimating a caution with regard to my own language in view of this or analogous topics.

I beg respectfully to assure your Lordship of my strict compliance with these instructions; and that I will use all diligence to discover and counteract whatever efforts are or may be made to infringe the policy or execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 454.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in a telegram addressed last night from General Skobeleff to Prince Dondoukoff and seen by myself, it is stated that the Russian army has wholly evacuated the town of Adrianople, and will in a few days have cleared out of the remaining extra East Roumelian territory. Also, that the inhabitants of the said territory, Greeks and Bulgarians, are emigrating in large but orderly bands into East Roumelia; more than 20,000 having, so runs the despatch, already crossed the frontier.

A second telegram, addressed by General Stolipine, same date, from Philippopolis, informs the Prince of the arrival of the above-mentioned emigrant Christian bands in East Roumelian territory. It adds that a disturbance at Hass-koi on occasion of a visit from M. Schmidt excepted, East Roumelia is quiet for the exterior; but that much excitement exists below the surface. The General adds that he does his best to maintain order and calm, but cannot feel sure of long succeeding.

I give these statements simply in view of the counter-effect their substance, which is repeated in other telegrams from popular sources, may produce for evil or good on the proceedings of the Assembly; and without any guarantee, beyond the signatures above cited, of their correctness as to facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 455.

Consul Sir C. Scbright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, March 13, 1879.*

THE only occurrence of a political nature that has presented itself here since the date of the communication which I had the honour to your Lordship on the 25th ultimo, No. 5, is referable to a religious ceremony—a mass of requiem—celebrated in the Greek Cathedral on Sunday last, in commemoration of the patriots who fell at the battle of Macrinitza, where the unfortunate Mr. Ogle was one of the victims.

2. The invitations to the ceremony were issued a week previously by Captain Basdeki, of the Greek Gendarmerie, who was the appointed leader of the so-called insurrectionary movement, and who, after it was crushed, was allowed to resume his functions in the service, when he joined the detachment of gendarmerie stationed in this island.

3. The invitations to the general public for the ceremony in question were issued by Basdeki in his own name and entirely *motu proprio*, a violation of all rule, which brought down upon him the strong disapproval of the superior military authorities, by whom he was placed under arrest and ordered to proceed to St. Maura, there to await the final decision of the War Minister at Athens. The commemorative service was, however, held all the same under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee, but none of the local authorities, civil or military, honoured it with their presence.

4. The history of Basdeki's mission to Thessaly and his exploits there are well told in a pamphlet of over 300 8vo. pages, published at Athens some five months back by the prime agent and organizer, in Athens, of the attempts originated in that capital of Hellenism to revolutionize the neighbouring Turkish provinces. It bears the significant title "Let the truth be told," and a more withering, well-authenticated expose of political obliquity on the part of the members, one and all, of the present Greek Ministry, as well as of the "Coalition" Ministry which preceded it, was perhaps never before published to the world.

5. As the facts thus brought to light are within the proper domain of Her Majesty's Legation, I do not venture to enter into the subject at greater length further than to mention that it has called forth explanations from the well-known Russian

Agent, Colonel Becker, who has made Corfu his permanent residence, explanations to which I would crave leave to refer on a future occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 456.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 165. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 10, 1879.*

HAVING learnt through Sir Henry Elliot's correspondence that Count Andrassy was under an impression that the German Government would support the Russian proposal for giving Bulgaria some of the southern slopes of the Balkans, instead of keeping to the Treaty of Berlin, which declares the crests to be the boundary, I thought it as well to question the German Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, who had but a few days since told me the contrary.

His Excellency, in reply to my inquiry, said he was at a loss to account for Count Andrassy's erroneous impression, which he would hasten to rectify; and that the German Government were determined to adhere strictly to the letter of the Berlin Treaty, as he had told me before, and as I have already reported to your Lordship in a previous despatch respecting the Russian Circular of the 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 457.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 166. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 12, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF arrived here last night, and called on me to-day. He spoke in warm and grateful terms of the kindness he had met with at the Earl of Beaconsfield's and your Lordship's hands, and he hoped to return to England about Easter.

His Excellency went on to say that he had had an interview with your Lordship, at which he had explained his arguments to your Lordship in favour of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia; and he repeated to me the conversation which your Lordship has recorded in your despatch No. 12 of the 27th of February to Lord Dufferin.

I said that he would not find the German Chancellor at all favourable to his views.

Count Schouvaloff replied that he had already called on Prince Bismarck, and had, he thought, been successful in removing his Highness' principal objections to a mixed occupation. Indeed, he had found him inclined to favour the French idea of an Austro-Russian occupation, which both Austria and Russia would most probably object to; and he had endeavoured to convince Prince Bismarck that by extending it to a quadruple occupation by England, Austria, Russia, and Turkey, the ends of the Berlin Treaty would be attained without either difficulty or bloodshed.

He thought Prince Bismarck would no longer oppose the idea if the Russian Government agreed to it, and on reaching St. Petersburgh he would make himself the apostle of a mixed occupation policy as the only means left in his opinion to prevent a flood which must inevitably carry off Eastern Roumelia and with it the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Schouvaloff's idea, however true and founded on a knowledge of coming events, will meet with no encouragement in Russia, where those very coming events, set in motion by Russian agents, are looked forward to by the National party with undisguised satisfaction and anticipation as a future triumph of Russian policy.

The Russian Government will, no doubt, carry out the Berlin Treaty to the letter, but they will not prevent the Panslavists from trying to tear it up immediately after, and once the Eastern Roumelians have effected their unification with the Bulgarians the independence of the Sultan is at an end.

Count Schouvaloff knows his countrymen. His timely warning is a proof of his

sincere desire to prevent the complications their national zeal is certain to entail upon his Government, and it is probably for that reason also that Prince Bismarck has promised him no longer to oppose the idea of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia if he can persuade the Russian Government to accept it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 458.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it is the intention of the Emperor to accompany the Empress to the Crimea on the 17th instant, and it is expected that their Majesties will remain at Livadia about two months.

The departure of the Court at this unusual date, when, in view of the many important political questions at present pending, the absence of the Emperor from his capital will be peculiarly inconvenient, has excited some astonishment. The reason officially assigned is Her Imperial Majesty's weak state of health, which makes it desirable that she should avoid the breaking up of the winter here.

The Court propose spending the summer months at Tsarskoe Selo as usual; but the Emperor hopes to attend the fêtes at Berlin in honour of the golden wedding of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael left St. Petersburgh a few days ago for Tiflis. His departure has been attributed by the public to two causes, viz., the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Caucasus and the preparation of a Russian expedition this summer against Merv.

The inclosed translation by Mr. Michell of an article in the "Golos" will show the nature of some of the difficulties which His Imperial Highness has to deal with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 458.

Extract from the "Golos" of February 24 / March 8, 1879.

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE suppression of the only two non-official Russian newspapers in the Caucasus has called forth the following expostulations of the "Golos" in its issue of the 24th February / 8th March, 1879:—

"Everybody remembers the difficulty of our position when, in the very heat of the war, and when great necessity was felt by our Danubian army for large bodies of reserves, we were compelled at the same time to send a considerable force for the reinforcement of our army of the Caucasus. We pointed out at the time that the cause of the weakness so unexpectedly exhibited of our combatant force in the Caucasus was not due to circumstances of a purely military character, nor to the numerical strength of the enemy, but that its origin lay much deeper, namely, in the social and general condition of the Caucasus in time of peace.

"Facts, however, spoke louder than words. The insurrections which broke out in Abkasia, in the Tchetchen country, even in Daghestan (where, during our struggle with Shamyl, the population remained tranquil), account for the employment of a considerable force of troops for the purpose of quelling internal disturbances, and clearly prove that years of peace and labour have passed without result for the Caucasus; that between tranquillity on paper, between purely external physical quietude and real well-being, there is an immeasurable difference.

"Dissatisfaction may be quelled by extraneous force, but at the first breath of air the smouldering fire will inevitably burst forth, so as to remind us that without internal, intellectual, and moral cohesion the connection with the State cannot be solid and reliable.

"It might be thought that the recent lesson, which proved so costly to all Russia, and to that glorious Caucasian army by whose bravery we have alone been able to

retain possession of that country, would not pass unprofitably. At the same time, however, we are latterly in receipt of the most unsatisfactory intelligence from the Caucasus.

"No symptoms of contentment are observed in the newly-annexed districts; on the contrary, it was recently stated in all the newspapers that the Adjarians in large numbers contemplate leaving their native land and emigrating to Turkey. They hope, it is said, to find consolation under the new régime which will be established in Asia Minor under the supervision of England, thus exhibiting their distrust in the present condition of things in the Caucasus.

"Other intelligence states that a great want of provisions is felt in the Province of Baku, and that a subscription has been officially started for the benefit of the sufferers, thus proving the unsatisfactory economic condition of a region so bountifully endowed by nature. But perhaps the most characteristic intelligence that reaches us from the Caucasus is contained in the fact of the simultaneous suspension of two Russian newspapers at Tiflis.

"For a long time we did not wish to believe this mournful fact, and considered that the suspension of the 'Obsor' and the 'Tiflis Gazette' was attributable to some accidental and temporary causes, but after a telegram and some correspondence we received a printed notice from the editors, which left no doubt that both the papers were compelled to stop their existence owing to so-called uncontrollable circumstances.

"Both the Tiflis newspapers served as a vital bond between Russian society and the influential and educated Caucasian population. They represented that intellectual and moral power which alone is capable of uniting the interests of a distant part of a State with its centre. To destroy this intellectual and moral connection is equivalent to renouncing those objects for which our brave Caucasian soldiers shed so much blood. If the intellectual interests which bind the native population to Russia are not satisfied; if we ourselves artificially estrange the population and compel it to satisfy its intellectual wants through the medium of journals published in the vernacular language, and therefore incomprehensible to the whole Empire, the intentions of the Government cannot be realized by such means. It should not be forgotten, and as we have repeatedly stated, that both these Russian papers at Tiflis existed by the active co-operation of the local educated classes, and that they expended considerable sums, not only in subscriptions, but in money contributions. The suspension of these papers will serve, consequently, as a direct cause for dissatisfaction among the local influential classes. On the other hand, if a newspaper cannot exist even when subject to censorial supervision, it may be asked what is the object of the existence of the Caucasian Committee of Censorship, especially when the question of curtailing the number of useless 'Tchinovniks' of the State has now been mooted?

"Up to the present time the vexatious reasons which compelled the Tiflis newspapers to suspend their activity have not been fully explained. Can it be possible that there is truth in the statement that assigns the cause to misunderstandings and collisions with the local censorship, and to its arbitrary interpretation of the limits of legal and prohibited discussion? But be the reasons what they may, one thing is clear: the Russian public up to the present time could only acquire intelligence of passing events in the Caucasus through the medium of the 'Obsor' and the 'Tiflis Gazette;' if we are now to content ourselves with the sole remaining official and formal newspaper, the "Kavkas," it may be anticipated that the Caucasus will disappear from our view as many other regions have done where no local press exists, until some new circumstance will bring them forth from such pernicious oblivion into daylight, as for instance was the case with the Astrachan fish-salting establishments."

"For whom is all this oblivion necessary? Where is the necessity of this darkness? For what purpose this disruption and estrangement of one part of the State from the other is necessary—we will not take upon ourselves to decide."

No. 459.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchacow was good enough to appoint Wednesday, the 1st February / 13th March, as the day on which I was to have my first interview with him. His Highness received me with great cordiality. After

some friendly observations, he proceeded to touch upon the unadvisability of nominating Rustem Pasha to the Governorship of Eastern Roumelia. I told his Highness that I was very disappointed to find that he should have conceived so strong an objection to an appointment which had been acquiesced in by all the other European Powers, and that I was especially instructed by my Government to press upon his attention the necessity of getting the matter settled without further delay.

The Prince replied that he would enter into the question on another occasion.

After some further conversation of no great importance, I took my leave.

On the following Friday I waited on M. de Giers, and during the course of the week I called upon several of the other Ministers.

On Sunday, the 2nd February/2nd March, as well as upon the subsequent Monday, I again saw Prince Gortchacow. The Prince assured me that the Russian Government had a sincere desire to arrive at a solid and durable understanding with Great Britain, based on the dignity of the two countries; that here, as well as in London, they were very much preoccupied with the dangers which might result from antagonism between the Mussulmans and the Christians in Eastern Roumelia when the time should arrive for the departure of the Russian troops; that it was necessary to discover some guarantees against these dangers, and that he wished to know whether my Government had instructed me to suggest any. I replied that Her Majesty's Government share his desire to arrive at a solid and durable understanding with the Government of His Imperial Majesty, especially with respect to the inauguration of the new régime in Eastern Roumelia under such conditions as would secure the welfare of its inhabitants; that with regard to the guarantees his Highness referred to, I might mention that Count Schouvaloff had in the course of conversation with me made a suggestion which I had communicated to your Lordship, namely, that the Porte might be induced to place in command of the Balkan garrisons European officers whose character and standing would obviate the risk of any excesses upon the part of the Turkish soldiery; and in reference to this suggestion, I had been permitted by my Government to inquire whether any such arrangements as those contemplated by Count Schouvaloff would be likely to recommend themselves to his Highness' favourable consideration.

Prince Gortchacow replied that, without at all refusing to entertain the idea, there were some preliminary points which would require consideration. First, that the delimitation of the Balkan frontier should be completed, and that no Turkish troops should enter as long as the Russian forces still occupied the province. Secondly, that it would be desirable that the strength of these Turkish garrisons should be agreed on beforehand, inasmuch as the position assumed by the Porte ought to be one of defence and not of attack; and that the places where the Turkish garrisons were to be stationed should be previously indicated. That another guarantee for the peace of the country would be the non-nomination of Rustem Pasha, for whom personally he had a great regard; but that, having violated the Constitution of the Lebanon, it was obvious his appointment to Roumelia would occasion great irritation, and perhaps serious disturbance. That, moreover, Rustem Pasha had been sent against his will to the Lebanon; and that he himself had told the Prince that he possessed a talent rather for diplomacy than for administration. He further stated that a private telegram announced that Rustem Pasha had declined the Governorship of Roumelia, and had applied for the post of Ambassador at Rome. To these observations I replied in the sense desired by your Lordship.

The Prince then remarked that the essential thing was that the Porte should acquire a conviction that a really good understanding had been established between Russia and England, and that, if this were done, it would cease to presume on the imaginary rivalry between the two Governments.

I replied that, though I had received no instructions upon the point, I was quite sure that the British Government would desire to impress both upon the Porte and upon the Roumelian population its strong desire that the administrative privileges assured to the inhabitants of the province under the Treaty should be respected. Prince Gortchacow seemed to attach great importance to these observations. He said he could assure me that the Russian Government would speak with equal energy both at Philippopolis and at Constantinople in order that the administrative Constitution guaranteed to Roumelia might not be violated on the one side, nor encroached upon on the other; that an agreement upon this point would be a common ground upon which the Russian Government would be glad to place itself side by side with that of England.

The Prince then suggested that the Governor-General of Roumelia should not be empowered to call in the Turkish troops without the assent of the European Cabinets,

and that it would be advisable that the Bulgarians in Roumelia should know this; that if this condition was not included in the letter of the Treaty, it was certainly in the spirit.

I informed his Highness that it would be my duty to transmit his opinion to your Lordship, but I took upon myself to assure him in very distinct terms that I did not think there was a chance of its being acquiesced in. His Highness concluded the interview by informing me that he must press for the retirement of the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora.

I might have condensed the foregoing conversation, but as Prince Gortchacow drew up a written summary of it for the Emperor's perusal, I have not liked to curtail my own report.

In a subsequent despatch I propose to send your Lordship a general résumé of the views expressed by various members of the Russian Government with whom I have conversed; of the language I myself have held, and of the impressions I have derived from my intercourse with Ministers here. I am afraid, however, I shall not have time to send it off by this week's messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 460.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 28 of the 5th instant, the inclosed translation by Mr. Michell of an article in the "Golos" will show your Lordship the feeling entertained by a considerable number of persons in this country as to the great importance to Russia of gaining the sympathy of the Armenians as a means of counterbalancing British influence in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 460.

Extract from the "Golos" of February 27/March 11, 1879.

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE "Golos" of the 27th February/11th March contains a leading article, in which it points out the importance of obtaining the sympathy of the Armenians in Asia Minor as a means for successfully opposing English influence in that region. The following are its observations on the subject:—

"Henceforward the centre of gravity of the Eastern question is transferred to Asiatic Turkey, to Armenia, where Russia will not so much be called on to struggle with Turkey as with England, who has replaced the former. For this reason it will be necessary to study this region carefully, to become acquainted with the population which inhabits it, and to arrive at a clear comprehension as to the races on which the most reliance can be placed, both on account of the moral and material strength they represent, as also in regard to their relations with ourselves, and it will be further necessary to consider the means to be employed. It was with this view that we devoted a series of articles to the strategical signification of Asia Minor.

"A solution of the military side of the question will not be a complete solution. Our struggle in Asia Minor must be a peaceful one. In Asia, as in Europe, the final victory will be gained by the side which will support the principles of civilization, the side which will enlist in its behalf the economical and moral forces of the country, as also the sympathy of the local races. The question of the population of Asia Minor, of its requirements and its position and relations in the immediate future, is of paramount importance.

"The Armenian question is for us a vital one. If the historical and intellectual meaning of the Eastern question consists in the emancipation of the Christians from the Mussulman yoke, then the last phase of the Eastern question must be the

Armenian one. Following the Greeks and Slavs, the question of the Armenians is becoming prominent."

No. 461.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

PETITION was presented yesterday by the family of Osman Bey, whose case is mentioned in my telegram No. 99. For full particulars of the matter please refer to my despatch No. 1 of 1st January and to Protocol 20.

The case is worse than as first reported, the man having been kept in prison two and a-half months already.

I send this to Mr. Malet, and venture to suggest that he should speak to the man who has the political direction here.

The whole thing is in such gross violation of the Treaty that I think it should be taken up strongly.

No. 462.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 102. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

THE Russians are very dexterously making use of Baron Ring to cause delay. He does not so overtly, but with little postponements and adjournments. But for this we could have ended this week.

Last night one of his Secretaries let drop their desire to adjourn conclusion of our Statute till after the evacuation. This, to my mind, would be very dangerous.

Without any reference to my Reports, could not French Minister for Foreign Affairs be induced to telegraph to M. Ring a very stringent order to make haste?

Coutouly, who is travelling with Schmidt and General Stolipine, telegraphs to M. Ring that everywhere he is greeted with cries of "Vive la France," and marks of sympathy for his country. In the last "Maritza" there is a long article in honour of France and the French Commissioners.

I believe that the Grand Vizier's ideas about remaining here have French origin. Unless we go to Constantinople, I doubt our being able to complete final redaction. Such is general feeling outside the French; but I do not wish in any way to influence your decision.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 463.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

GERMAN Commissioner declares he has received no instructions to expedite business of Commission. It is most desirable that these should arrive soon, as the French Commissioners are making every delay.

(Sent to Lord O. Russell.)

No. 464.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday the name of Turk is Osman Bey.

The Court-martial was held here. The statement is made by petition to the Commission, and not contradicted by Russian Commissioners, who assert right to transport to Siberia. The man was one of parties signing the petition.

No. 465.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

AT Slivno there were demonstrations in favour of Russia and France, and against M. Schmidt and the Commission. M. Ring confesses that demonstrations in favour of France were got up by the Russians.

General Stolipine put an end to the riot against M. Schmidt. The Bulgarian militia behaved well. There is little doubt that the journey of Coutouly and the subsequent events were got up between latter and the Russians.

M. Ring says that he absolutely cannot work faster, and it is plain that now that the Russians have received orders to press on, the French are playing into their hands and delaying the work purposely.

Coutouly has talked very loudly both against Austria and England.

No. 466.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

I THINK that it would be well to ascertain if the French Commissioners are acting with or without the concurrence of their Government. They have taken up the obstruction abandoned by Russians, and declare their views so openly that I can hardly fancy that they are going entirely on their own responsibility.

No. 467.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Consul Henderson, dated yesterday:—

"Three more Zeitounli have been killed. Vali in reply to my remonstrance says they were found dead, and will do nothing. I do not think we can restrain Zeitounli any longer from retaliating. Cannot Omer Pasha be appointed Governor-General provisionally, as with Kiamil the position is no longer tenable? He told me yesterday that instead of his being recalled to Constantinople, I should have to go there myself. Kiamil telegraphed to Kadrigrahalim Pasha and to a native of Aleppo, named Abillada, whom the Sultan lately telegraphed for; he is Sultan's interpreter of dreams, and Said Pasha's intimate friend. Vali alleges that by their influence he has thwarted all attempts of English and French Embassies to dismiss him. Vali shows great animosity in minor questions, such as stopping my excavations at Carchemish, and in repayment to [me of?] British claims, whilst he pays foreign claims abroad, on which subject I shall report to you by next mail.

No. 468.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 16, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Adrianople, dated this evening:—

"Reouf Pasha informs me Kirk-Kilissé was occupied at 8 this morning by Turkish cavalry, and at noon by infantry under Vessel Pasha.

"Russians evacuated immediately, rear-guard being followed by two Turkish squadrons. Russian reserve under Scobeleff left Adrianople this morning, retiring on Mustapha Pasha."

No. 469

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1879, 2·30 P.M.*

IF Schepelew refers again to the alleged neglect of Porte to name a Governor, say that Porte has named one, who has been approved by all Europe except Russia, and that Europe cannot give way to the objections of one Power.

No. 470.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 99 of the 14th instant, I am afraid that under Treaty Commission must continue to manage finances until the completion of the organization, which includes appointment of Governor. I do not think it ought to move from Philippopolis, though, of course, individual members may leave.

I will write more at length about it.

No. 471.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 147.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph of your telegram No. 97 of the 14th instant, in which you reported to me Colonel Schepelow's remarks as to the dangers likely to arise in consequence of the alleged neglect of the Porte to appoint a Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, I have to-day instructed you by telegraph to reply to the Russian Commissioner, should he again allude to this subject, that, in selecting Rustem Pasha, the Porte has already named a Governor-General whose appointment has received the approval of all the European Powers with the exception of Russia, and that Europe cannot give way on a point of this importance to the objections of one Power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 472.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 149.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1879.*

IN a telegram which I have addressed to you this day, I have authorized you to communicate to the Exarch of Bulgaria the substance of my telegram of the 9th instant, in which I informed you that I should decline to receive M. Gosholf or any other person representing a party in Eastern Roumelia, and that Her Majesty's

Government will absolutely refuse to entertain any proposal for the modification of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 473.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 151.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1879.*

WITH regard to the question raised in your telegram No. 99 of the 17th instant, relative to the proposed intention of the European Commission to remove to Constantinople on the completion of the Organic Statute in about a fortnight's time from this date, I have this day informed you by telegraph that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government this course would be undesirable, as, under the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin, the Commission is bound to continue to manage the finances of Eastern Roumelia until the constitution of the province is completely organized and a Governor appointed. It would, therefore, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be undesirable that as yet it should permanently leave Philippopolis, though there would not, of course, be any objection to the temporary absence of individual members.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 474.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 209 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a further note which Prince Lobanoff has addressed to the Porte, under date of the 8th instant, regarding the Tocqueville Convention.

In this note the Prince, after recapitulating the arguments in the note of the Porte of the 3rd instant, remarks that they are tantamount to cancelling the engagements of the Sublime Porte to the Imperial Government, that they confirm the views expressed in his Excellency's preceding note, and compel him to maintain the opposition which he had recorded to any new hypothecation so long as the guarantees for the war indemnity shall not have been agreed upon and determined by the Imperial Government and the Sublime Porte.

His Excellency concludes by saying that he will not fail to transmit the note of the Porte to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Enclosure in No. 474.

Prince Lobanoff to Caratheodory Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Péra, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Février}}{8 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 3 Mars, au sujet des derniers arrangements financiers de la Sublime Porte.

Votre Excellence cherche à y établir que la Sublime Porte, en l'absence de tout engagement direct ou indirect pouvant restreindre ses droits, est libre de disposer de ses revenus anciens ou nouveaux comme elle l'entend; qu'il n'est jamais entré dans sa pensée de classer ses créanciers suivant un ordre déterminé, et que dans l'état actuel de ses finances il lui est impossible d'assigner l'ordre dans lequel l'indemnité de guerre due à la Russie pourrait trouver place dans la série des dettes de l'Empire Ottoman.

Ces allégations, si elles étaient admises, ne tendraient à rien moins qu'à annuler les engagements contractés par la Sublime Porte envers le Gouvernement Impérial. Elles ne font que confirmer les considérations exposées dans ma note précédente et

m'imposent d'obligation de maintenir l'opposition que j'y ai formulée contre la distraction de toute nouvelle hypothèque, aussi longtemps que les gages qui doivent garantir l'indemnité de guerre de la Russie, n'auront pas été convenus et déterminés par une entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Sublime Porte.

Je ne manquerai pas du reste de soumettre la note de votre Excellence à l'appréciation du Cabinet Impérial.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) LABANOFF.

No. 475.

Consul Dupuis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Bengazi, March 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople announcing the change of form of Government of this province, and suggesting that the new Vali should be empowered by the Porte to carry out certain urgent and necessary reforms and improvements in Bengazi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Consul Dupuis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bengazi, March 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that intelligence has been received here yesterday by sailing vessel from Crete that this sandjak, hitherto under Tripoli, has been raised to a vilayet depending chiefly from the Central Government at Constantinople, and that Raouf Bey has been appointed to the post of Governor-General with the rank of Mushir.

It is hoped that this change may bring with it a better order of things in Bengazi, both from a political and administrative point of view, and not, as is supposed, with the sole object of compelling payment of taxes, which it would appear the Mutessarif is powerless to enforce from the Arabs.

In the interest of the Ottoman Government it is greatly to be desired that the new Governor-General should be armed with power and authority to carry out the following reforms and improvements in this province, namely, the reconstituting of the Courts of Justice (especially the Tidjaret); the re-establishment of the telegraph line; the organizing of a regular postal service; and the clearing of the harbour, and rendering it safe to vessels resorting hither for grain.

The submarine telegraph cable between this and Tripoli on the one side, and Alexandria on the other, abandoned since 1872 in consequence of the Porte having refused to contribute towards the expenses, and now lying useless at the bottom of the sea, should be recovered and restored to working order at once, and a regular postal service, which was likewise refused, a subsidary should also be established.

The absence alone of these means of communication, and the consequent isolation of Bengazi from the rest of the Turkish Empire and commercial centres, are public calamities greatly to be deplored in this age of progress, seeing that in former years this country was saved from political and social troubles through these agencies—troubles which may again arise, considering the existence of feelings of hostility and defiance on the part of the Arabs towards their rulers, who find it impossible to collect the taxes except at the point of the bayonet.

I am just informed that some of the leading Arabs of Bengazi, while thanking the Government of the Sultan for elevating their country to the rank of a vilayet, are petitioning for the dismissal of the whole of the staff of the different Tribunals, as well as the members of the Idaré Medjliss.

Trusting your Excellency will deem the subjects of this despatch of sufficient importance to be brought to the knowledge of the Turkish Government, I have &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 476.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 10, 1879.*

MR. MALET informed your Lordship by his telegram of Abedin Bey having warned his Government of an active Austrian propaganda being carried on in Albania, and that this and similar reports from Macedonia partly account for the obstinacy of the Porte in the matter of the Novi-Bazar Convention.

That these reports are circulated by persons desirous of preventing the conclusion of the Convention, and the establishment of good relations between Turkey and Austria, I feel very little doubt; for although I do not quite understand what is meant by an Austrian propaganda in Albania, I continue to be convinced, as I have frequently reported to your Lordship, that no designs hostile to Turkey are entertained by the Imperial Government, and I am further satisfied that if the Convention were once concluded their friendly disposition would become more apparent.

If, on the other hand, it is rejected, and an exaggerated distrust of this country is shown by the Porte, it is impossible to foresee the effect that it may have on the policy of the Government, though it is likely to produce an unfortunate state of things that may prove very injurious to Turkey.

As far as it is possible to judge from Count Andrassy's language, he appears to attach the utmost importance to the maintenance of tranquillity in Albania; and he spoke to me at Pesth of it being essential that there should not be there any movement, which would, he believed, immediately lead to some intervention on the part of Italy, which he is especially desirous of avoiding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 477.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, directing me to ascertain what instructions the Austrian Consul-General at Tirnova had received with respect to the admission of M. Davidoff to the Bulgarian Consular Commission, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the inclosed despatch from Mr. Monson, whom I instructed to communicate your inquiry to Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 477.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 10, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY being occupied when I went to Buda this morning, I asked Baron Orczy, in the terms of your despatch to me of yesterday, what instructions had been sent to the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Tirnova, respecting the admission of M. Davidoff to the sittings of the Consular Commission.

Baron Orczy said that the instructions were based upon the opinion of this Government that M. Davidoff had no right to attend the sittings of the Commission; that he could only do so if invited, and then only for the purpose of giving information; and that he had certainly no right to vote. Baron Orczy had understood that Her Majesty's Government took the same view, and did not know that there had been any misunderstanding upon the subject at Tirnova.

He added that M. de Novikow had informed this Government that Russia did not admit the correctness of the view taken by Austria-Hungary and Great Britain as to M. Davidoff's position; but that, as it was clear that the two latter did not intend to

give way. M. Davidoff had been directed to abstain altogether from attending the sittings of the Consular Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 478.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1878.*

I COMMUNICATED in a private letter to Count Andrassy the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant respecting the proposal of the Russian Government for a modification of the Balkan frontier of Bulgaria.

Your Lordship's language appears to have been precisely the same as what his Excellency had stated that he would himself hold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 479.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch which I sent to Mr. Monson upon receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 11th, forwarding Mr. Corbett's Report of the language held by the Austrian Minister at Athens, recommending the Greek Government to break off negotiations with the Porte.

In the private letter to Count Andrassy which I sent through Mr. Monson, I asked his Excellency whether he would not instruct Count Dubsky to conform his language to that of Mr. Corbett.

It may be remembered that on previous occasions Count Dubsky has shown himself desirous of encouraging the Greek Government to adopt measures likely to lead to a rupture with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 479.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Monson.

Sir, *Vienna, March 12, 1879.*

MR. CORBETT has informed Her Majesty's Government that the Foreign Minister at Athens has strongly recommended the Greek Government not to break off negotiations with the Porte as long as there is a chance of coming to an amicable arrangement, but to adhere as far as possible to the Berlin proposals, and has deprecated as strongly as Her Majesty's Minister any insurrectionary movement on the part of the Greeks as likely to be fatal to their aspirations.

Mr. Corbett states that, on the other hand, Count Dubsky, the Austrian Minister, holds precisely opposite language, and has recommended the Greek Government to break off the negotiations, and though it is not known at Athens whether he is acting under instructions from his Government or not, his language has created an impression that Austria may not be indisposed, for ends of her own, to stir up difficulties in Macedonia.

I inclose, under flying seal, a private letter that I have written on this subject to Count Andrassy, and have to request you to inform me whether his Excellency will forward instructions to Count Dubsky directing him to hold the same language as that of Mr. Corbett.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 480.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1879.*

UPON receiving your Lordship's telegram, with Sir H. Drummond Wolff's Report of a projected deputation from East Roumelia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia to the different Courts, I forwarded the substance of it to Mr. Monson, with instructions to ascertain whether he had held the same language to M. Kallay as your Lordship to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

I did not consider it necessary to mention that the latter had consented to give M. Gueshoff a letter to your Lordship.

Mr. Monson has informed your Lordship by telegraph of his execution of this instruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 481.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1879.*

I HAVE requested Mr. Monson to notify to Count Andrassy the appointment of General Hamley as Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner for Bulgaria, in the place of the late Colonel Home, and to state that he is in readiness to start and to begin operations whenever the other Powers signify their intention of dispatching their Commissioners.

The last time I saw Count Andrassy he said that he thought the Commission ought to be on the spot to commence their work at the first moment the weather permitted them to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 482.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1879.*

I SPOKE to Count Andrássy at Pesth about the attempt that is being made to obtain the appointment of a Foreign Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia, and, having formerly understood his Excellency to be unfavourable to the suggestion, I was not prepared to hear him say that he would have nothing to advance against it if the Porte was disposed to adopt it. His tone indicated a leaning rather favourable than hostile to such a nomination, though he stated that there could be no possible justification for limiting the choice of the Sultan further than was provided by the Treaty, and that, as no plausible objection could be advanced against Rustem Pasha, his appointment ought to be confirmed. He greatly regretted that it had been decided at Berlin that the appointment of the Governor-General required the unanimous approval of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 483.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

My Lord, *Athenæum Club, March 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, a letter which I have just received from Commandant Lemoyne, Secretary to the Bulgarian Boundary Commis-

sion, on the subject of the survey of the line of the Balkans executed by the Russian topographers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 483.

M. Lemoyne to Major-General Hamley.

Constantinople, le 3 Mars, 1879.

LE Secrétariat a été informé que la zone de terrain actuellement levée par les topographes Russes le long de la frontière de Bulgarie, s'étend de la Mer Noire aux environs de Samakow; que ce travail présente deux lacunes sans importance qui seront comblées aussitôt le retour de la belle saison, et que les topographes Russes entreprendront également à cette époque le lever du reste de la frontière.

On a l'honneur de porter ces renseignements à la connaissance de M. le Commissaire Anglais auprès de la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie.

Le Commissaire chargé de la Direction du Secrétariat,
(Signé) J. V. LEMOYNE.

No. 484.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Mars*, 1879.

IL serait désirable que le Major Clark se trouvât à Constantinople, si possible, avant le terme indiqué par Lord Salisbury, car les Commissaires Russes ont fait tous leur apparition ici, et veulent entrer en négociation sans perte de temps. Nous l'avons évité jusqu'ici parce que Sir Henry Layard nous avait affirmé que son Gouvernement attachait de l'importance à ce que rien ne se fit en dehors de lui. Mais, comme les Russes nous pressent, je vous prie de voir Lord Salisbury et d'insister auprès de lui sur la nécessité de hâter le départ du Major Clark.

No. 485.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 17*, 1879.

THE Turkish Commissioners have enabled Osman Aga to appear in Cassation.

This gives him fifteen days; otherwise he would have been sent off in three days. The whole thing is a vindictive blunder [*sic*] of Stolipine's.

I believe that unless strong pressure is brought to bear on the Emperor personally the sentence will be carried out.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 486.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 17*, 1879.

OSMAN BEY has been sentenced for life to Siberia, and was told to make his will, as he would never be allowed to return. He is a lame man with six children, and unable to earn a livelihood except as a public writer. He is accused of having excited the people against the Russians simply for having drawn the Petition which I forwarded

to General Stolipine in pursuance of understanding between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff. He has been in prison two months and a half.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 487.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17*, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY is satisfied with progress of his negotiations, though he states the contrary publicly, at the request of Minister for Foreign Affairs, who fears intrigues and being accused of yielding. Count Zichy (? hopes) that Porte has abandoned the word "temporary," though it has not stated that absolutely.

The third point about Bosnians and Herzegovinians is under discussion: Count Andrassy will not have it settled in Convention; the Porte insists Count Zichy is trying to induce Count Andrassy to give way. The other points he considers as arranged.

No. 488.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17*, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY has recommended the Porte to maintain a strong force at Adrianople ready to act in Roumelia, and to give up all idea of entering the Balkans until Russians have entirely gone, and the province has submitted to the Sultan.

No. 489.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 18*, 1879.

AT the banquet last night the Grand Vizier, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, War, and Marine, Generals, Admirals, and the Court were present. The Sultan proposed the health of the Queen, saying he had invited the Admiral and officers as a mark of recognition of their services, and of his desire to draw closer the bonds of union which united the two countries. In proposing His Majesty's health, I returned thanks for this mark of goodwill towards my country, and assured His Majesty that England would not forget it.

No. 490.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 18*, 1879.

I COMPLAINED to Minister for Foreign Affairs last night that having stated to me for communication to your Lordship that the De Tocqueville Convention was over on the 14th, he had granted a delay of four days without informing me. His Excellency said that the delay had been given, not for sake of De Tocqueville, but in order to permit communications to pass between your Lordship and M. Waddington, which had been interrupted by the Duke of Connaught's marriage. His Excellency had instructed the Turkish Ambassador at Paris to communicate delay first to M. Waddington, and if he agreed, then to your Lordship.

No. 491.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 18, 1879.

GENERAL BAKER has given me a confidential Memorandum on Eastern Roumelia. He says Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia will have a partially trained army of 60,000 to 70,000 men. Turkish battalions average 350 men; guns and horses of the army were lost during campaign, and have been incompletely replaced; the cavalry has not been remounted since conclusion of peace. Administrative departments are in complete disorder. Turkey will not have 40,000 men available for action in Roumelia unless it withdraws its troops from Thessaly, Epirus, and Kossova. The troops sent to Adrianople are not supplied with transport. Turkey has indeed forces, which could be available and sufficient, but financial reasons prevent their utilization. The occupation of Balkans would lead to disaster, unless supported by troops in Eastern Roumelia. The General strongly advocates that harbour [? and] bay of Bourgas should be protected by a strong line of works.

I propose to give copy of Memorandum to the Grand Vizier.

No. 492.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of Sunday [? yesterday] evening, I was on the point of making similar suggestion. Will now learn if idea would be acceptable to Emperor.

No. 493.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, March 18, 1879, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

CASE of Osman Bey has been sent to Lord Dufferin for representation at St. Petersburgh.

No. 494.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

Foreign Office, March 18, 1879, 5·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SIR H. WOLFF telegraphs that a Turk named Osman Bey has been tried by a Russian Court-martial at Philippopolis, and sentenced to transportation for life to Siberia.

His sentence was given in virtue of decrees published in the province before the Treaty of San Stefano. The Turkish Commissioners and Sir H. Wolff have protested against this as an infringement of Berlin Treaty. He is accused of having excited the people against the Russians by having drawn and signed the Petition presented to the Commission, which is referred to in Sir H. Wolff's despatch No. 1 and Protocol No. 20 inclosed in his despatch No. 30 of this year.

This petition was forwarded to General Stolipine by Sir H. Wolff, according to understanding arrived at with Count Schouvaloff, and reported in my despatch to Sir H. Wolff No. 140 of the 12th December.

The man has been in prison two months and a-half; he is lame, has six children, and is unable to earn a livelihood, except as a public writer. The Turkish Commissioners have enabled him to appear in Cassation. This gives him fifteen days. Otherwise he would have been sent off in three days.

The attention of M. de Giers should, I think, be earnestly drawn to this proceeding.

No. 495.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 205 of the 16th instant, insist very earnestly on Grand Vizier's promise being fulfilled. Inform him I shall have to lay the case before Parliament, and all the indignation of the English people against Turkish mis-government will be renewed.

No. 496.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 366.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1879.

ON the receipt of your telegram No. 205, of the 16th instant, in which you repeated one from Mr. Consul Henderson, reporting on the continued unsatisfactory state of affairs in the district of Zeitoun, I instructed you, by a telegram dated this day, to urge the Grand Vizier most earnestly to fulfil his promise that Kiamil Pasha, the present Vali, should be recalled.

You have been instructed to point out to him that it is most desirable that the Porte should take this step without further delay, otherwise it will be incumbent on Her Majesty's Government to lay the papers relating to the question before Parliament, and the recent popular indignation in England will be renewed by this fresh instance of Turkish misgovernment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 497.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 153.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1879.

YOU will have learnt from a telegram, which I have addressed to you this day, that the case of Osman Bey, who has been sentenced by the Russian authorities to transportation to Siberia, has been referred to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, and that his Excellency has been instructed to make an earnest representation to the Russian Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 498.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt, from my telegram of this day's date, the circumstances, as reported by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, under which a Turk named Osman Bey has been tried by Court-martial by the Russian authorities at Philippopolis, and sentenced to transportation for life to Siberia.

I have instructed your Excellency to call the attention of M. de Giers very earnestly to this proceeding.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 499.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1879.

SIR H. D. WOLFF informs me that he has sent to your Excellency a copy of a telegram which he addressed to me on the 16th instant, in which he stated that it was most desirable that the German Commissioners should receive instructions to expedite the business of the Commission. Her Majesty's Government consider it to be of great importance that all the Commissioners should assist in bringing the labours of the Commission to a speedy conclusion, and I have therefore to request your Excellency to urge that, if instructions in that sense have not already been sent to the German Commissioners, he may be furnished with them as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 500.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish Government, believing that it could arrive at an arrangement with Montenegro regarding the maintenance of an Agent at Podgoritza by other means than those recommended by Kiamil Pasha, refused to follow the course mentioned in my telegram to your Lordship of the 14th instant. Consequently, Osman Bey, the officer left at Podgoritza, has to-day arrived here, having been ordered by a written notification to leave Podgoritza after having declined to obey a verbal summons.

Osman Bey had, on my intervention, been allowed to delay his departure from Podgoritza for several days.

Although I had been careful to warn the Pashas here what to expect, and I suppose they in their turn informed the Porte, Osman Bey's expulsion has greatly annoyed them.

I do not share the belief of the Turkish authorities, that the Mussulmans of Podgoritza will now all withdraw from the place, as I am sure the Montenegrins will exert themselves to reassure them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 501.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gould, No. 32, respecting the intention of the Prince of Servia to visit Bulgaria.

That the Prince may intend visiting the Koula and Belgradjik districts on the West Bulgarian frontier, where, according to Bulgarian statement, twenty villages, and in particular those of Racovitza, Staropalitza, Koula, Mahala, Boinitza, Goleshanovo, Halovo, Grazcoff, Solash, and Rahnovtza, all situated within the limits assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin, have been forcibly occupied and are still so held by the Servians, is, of course, possible. But his advance, at least as a guest, any further into a country where he is I may say universally disliked, and where no other than a very unpleasant reception could possibly await him, is, I think, highly improbable. Nor could the Russian provisional government of Bulgaria give, under the present circumstances, any countenance to such a tour, one immediate effect of which would certainly be to destroy any remaining confidence of the Bulgarian population in Russian intentions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 502.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the copies Nos. 35 and 37 of Mr. Gould's despatches regarding the movements of General Tchernaieff.

The General did actually pass through the southern part of this Principality when on his way from Nisch to Constantinople, and stayed two days, the 12th and 13th, I think, of last month, at Sophia. He was closely watched the whole time; and the Russian Commissary neither admitted him to any private audience, nor allowed him, at dinner or in public, to touch on any political topic. He has since, I am informed, proceeded by Odessa to St. Petersburgh, where it is said the character of his reception is yet doubtful.

In my despatch No. 17, Political, I had the honour of attending to this subject, but did not at the time, and from what had then as yet come to my knowledge, consider the General's visit as requiring more than a cursory notice of its apparent failure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 503.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 27. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March* 4, 1879.

IN my preceding despatch No. 26, Political, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that although Prince Dondoukoff did not personally admit General Tchernaieff to any serious conversation during the stay lately made by the latter at Sophia, yet he caused him to be closely watched and reported on regarding his intercourse with others.

A vague rumour of an intended co-operation of Servia with a Bosnian rising, planned to embarrass the communications of the Austrian army in its expected advance upon Novi-Bazar in the spring, and that General Tchernaieff's visit to Sophia was mainly in order to sound the dispositions of the Russian Provisional Government, and through it of Bulgaria generally in this regard, reached me some days since, but it was not till yesterday evening that I learnt, on very serious though not unquestionable authority, that the rumour was substantially true, and the Bosnio-Servian movement a real project.

It would further appear, on the same authority, that the Russians, though viewing with pleasure the embarrassment thus prepared for Austria, and desiring its success, would not permit Bulgaria to take any part in it, general or particular, wishing to keep that Principality out of the complications resulting from the intended movement. To which I may add, from my own observation, that the Bulgarians have no predisposition to join in it, nor would do so, unless perhaps under compulsion; but should the rising above-mentioned take place, it may be expected that Russian co-operation from other and extra Bulgarian quarters will, in one form or other, not be wanting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 504.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 28. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of an extract, marked No. 12, Confidential, from the despatches of Sir H. Elliot, regarding the possibility of the election of Prince Charles of Roumania to the Bulgarian Principality.

That such an election would be neither in accordance with the Bulgarian nor the Russian view is absolutely certain. Nor has any Roumanian candidate, such as, for instance, Prince Bibesco, whose agents, at present in this town, are the objects of popular derision, the least chance of success. And thus far, from a local point of view, MM. Bratiano and Balatchano's opinion is strictly correct.

But I do not quite agree with them in thinking that "the Bulgarians would elect as Prince whomsoever might be designated to them by the Russian Government," at least for that sole reason. This might indeed have been the case six, or even four, months ago; but the first preparations for the Assembly of Tirnovo awakened in them a feeling of distinct and individualized nationality, which has gone on strengthening ever since, and will certainly lead them to attempt having, as much as possible, their own way in the election of their Prince as in other things.

For the present, among many names, that of Prince Reuss seems to find the most favour. A large and influential number wishes, however, the election delayed altogether for a period of six months or thereabouts, thinking the transition from the actual form of Provisional Government to complete autonomy too abrupt, and that the nation is not ripe for it yet. As conditions, they would stipulate the withdrawal of the Russian military force, the cadres excepted, and the progressive replacement of the Russian officials yet employed, being about one-fifth of the total number, by Bulgarian born.

Prescinding from outside exigencies, and in view merely of the better and firmer development of the Principality itself, there is much to be said in favour of this view. Nor would its carrying out practically tend to the Russification of the Principality; rather the opposite. Of this the Russians are aware, and hence do not, in general, desire to see the interim prolonged, especially under the conditions above stated; and with the certainty based, I am told, on the Russian Emperor's formal exclusion of all Russian candidates from the Bulgarian Throne, before their eyes. Nor do I think that the scheme, though certainly favoured by many leading men among the notables, commands at present a majority, or even anything approaching to it as yet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 505.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 29. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Colonel Synge's Reports on the late disturbances in Macedonia, marked as Inclosures in Nos. 79, 96, and 106 of his Excellency Sir Henry Layard's correspondence, and dated respectively the 11th December and the 27th December, 1878, and the 5th January, 1879.

On the exactness of the individual facts reported, dependent as it necessarily is on the character and antecedents of the reporter himself, on the circumstances under which he was sent to report, on the character of the witnesses examined, and the circumstances under which they were examined, I am, of course, unable to form any valid opinion. But I observe with regret that these Reports, while tending to shift the blame from one to the other side, only too fully confirm what I myself have borne witness to, and which is perhaps the most important consideration in the whole matter, namely, the greatness of the evil, the progressive desolation of the country, and the urgent need of remedy and repair.

It is also my duty to state, which I do with sincere regret, that a reporter sent by the "Standard" correspondent to the Razlog district, early in January, minutely confirmed the statements I had previously the honour of reporting, though merely as on hearsay, to your Lordship, regarding the destruction of life and property by the Ottoman troops and their auxiliaries. The consequent account was, the same correspondent informs me, sent to the paper above-named, but was not published by it. I need hardly add, that I myself knew nothing of these proceedings at the time, or indeed till quite lately; and I have carefully abstained from any expression of a wish to see the document thus mentioned to me, and even from inquiry into the precise nature of its contents.

Rumour here current states that the insurrection, this time further west in the Macedonian province, has recommenced, with the same unhappy consequences as

before. The unusual mildness of the season has, perhaps, precipitated the outbreak, which was not expected to recur till somewhat later. But, at this distance from the frontier, it is impossible to verify facts of the kind, even approximately, especially in a time of general excitement like the present. That, however, the spring will repeat, and even enhance, in Macedonia the miserable events of last autumn, is the general belief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 506.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy marked No. 74, of a despatch from his Excellency Sir H. A. Layard, recording Carathéodory Pasha's statement, that the Turkish Commissary at Sophia, Pertew Effendi, complained of not having received my support in his endeavours to obtain a proper representation of the Mussulman element in the political institutions for the new tributary Principality of Bulgaria, and inclosing an extract of a despatch from Pertew Effendi to the Porte in that regard.

The complaint alluded to must, it seems, have been made in some other document than in the extract forwarded, as the latter merely contains a recapitulation of opinions, concluding with a statement that I admitted that the project for the Convocation of the Assembly did not supply an arithmetical representative equality, but that I did not know what remedy could be applied.

This is not precisely a complaint.

What really passed between Pertew Effendi and myself was as follows:—The Turkish Commissary, in a private visit, exposed to me his opinion that: Firstly, the Assembly of Notables ought to represent Bulgaria, not as it now is, under the provisions of the Berlin Treaty, but as it was under the old system; secondly, that the only real and self-sufficient basis of representation was property. I frankly told him that I differed from him on both these points, and gave him my reasons for so doing.

As to the numerical value of the elements to be represented, I said that, so far as the popular and local elections were concerned, I thought sufficient provision had been made, but that, taking into consideration the members "of right," especially the Presidents of Tribunals, who, under the present order of things, were inevitably Christian, I admitted that some compensation in favour of the Mahomedan element might seem fair. This, I added, would perhaps be supplied by the Russian Commissary in the direct nominations, thirty or forty in number, which he reserved to himself; further remarking that I had already made the suggestion to his Excellency, and that I would further insist on it, I did so in fact, with ampler result than I had myself anticipated.

Lastly, I said that, while admitting the arithmetical disproportion of Mahomedan representation provided in the Programme, I considered the proportion, taken from a social and political point of view, as really sufficient. Nevertheless, I offered my support to any representation or action the Turkish Commissary might undertake in view of arithmetical equality, and hereon I suggested:—Firstly, that he, Pertew Effendi, should write to the Porte to obtain the concurrence in sending back to Bulgaria, without delay, any Muftis, large landed Mahomedan proprietors, and the like, who had emigrated during or after the war, that they might be duly presented as candidates for the Assembly, promising my active support in Bulgaria itself to giving all possible effect to such a measure. This proposal Pertew Effendi declined to act on, saying that the Porte would be unable or uncareful to comply with it.

I then asked him if he had made any formal representation to the Russian Commissary on the subject, again assuring him of my help if he would do so; and even adding that, were I in his place, I would certainly do it, and, to give it more effect, in writing. But this proposal, too, the Turkish Commissary declined, giving for reason motives which seemed to me inadequate and weak.

I then observed that I had made two practical offers, neither of which he had accepted, and begged him to make a third, renewing, at the same time, my assurances

of co-operation. He answered, that he had none to suggest. On which, and not till then, I said what he had reported, but disjointed from what preceded it, that, such being his conclusion, I did not see what remedy could be applied.

Subsequently I inquired, more than once, of the Turkish Commissary whether he had taken any steps in this (from his point of view) important matter? And he has as often answered me that he had taken none. To be more certain yet, I inquired of the Russian Commissary whether Pertew Effendi had represented the matter above treated of to him, officially or unofficially? And again I was answered in the negative.

I would, accordingly, respectfully represent that I could not give my support to the efforts supposed by Caratheodory Pasha, since not only no such efforts were ever made, but even my own proposals to make them were not accepted.

In reporting these facts, I would also beg respectfully to state that I have no intention of either making or implying any criticism on the views or expressions of the Turkish Commissary, having in mind the extreme delicacy of his position, and the many difficulties in his way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 507.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, March 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the copy of a despatch, marked No. 69, from his Excellency Sir H. Elliot, respecting the claim of Russia to be represented on the Bulgarian Consular Commission.

On this subject I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegram, and by my despatch No. 24, Political, extending the telegram itself. I may now add that not only myself but my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues, in virtue of our respective instructions, continue to repudiate the Russian claim in this matter. The German Delegate alone reserves his opinion, waiting instructions, which, though applied for a month since, have not, it would appear, yet arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 508.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 15, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 12th instant, Nos. 286, 287, and 288, and to your Lordship's telegram of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to report that I have to-day furnished M. Waddington with a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 275 of the 5th instant respecting the rectification of the Greco-Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 509.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 18, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Officers are telling Greeks here that the evacuation will be postponed for six months.

A new French candidate is now proposed for Governor-General, viz., M. Outrey.

Schepelow spoke under the impression that Rustem Pasha had refused Governorship. There have been further demonstrations against M. Schmidt at Slivno; but Coutouly, under the patronage of Russians, is received with acclamations.

No. 510.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(Strictly Personal and Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 18, 1879.*

ASSIM PASHA tells me that Haireddin is entirely in the hands of the French Ambassador. This is why he has proposed prolonged residence of the Commission here, which the French Commissioners are the only ones to advocate.

Assim cannot get answers under a month, and unless we go to Constantinople, and bring pressure to bear by personal communication, we shall not get through in time.

No. 511.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 18, 1879.*

M. DEPRETIS informed this morning that Colonel Orero, Italian Delegate to Bulgarian Frontier Commission, had either left or would leave immediately.

His instructions are that Commission should proceed with the utmost dispatch to complete its labours. Contested points to be settled by majority.

In reply to an inquiry, his Excellency said his attention had not as yet been directed to question whether or not evacuation should be commenced only or completed by 4th May; he would examine Treaty, but he was inclined to think it ought to be completed. He again spoke strongly as to absolute necessity of strict execution of Treaty, and said Italy would follow England in insisting upon this.

A communication has been made by French Government respecting Greco-Turkish Frontier negotiations, to which M. Depretis said he replied by suggesting that French Government should come to an understanding with England if the Powers were to offer their mediation. I told him your Lordship had informed both French and Greek Governments that you could not advise cession of Janina, and his Excellency said he had spoken in same sense.

He had, however, advised the Porte to make some more acceptable proposal than any yet presented.

No. 512.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 18, 1879.*

INSTRUCTIONS [? received] at Prevesa yesterday by the Ottoman Commissioners. A meeting of Delegates is fixed for to-day.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 513.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 18, 1879.*

I START to-day for Cettinjé to [? try to] bring about an understanding between Turks and Montenegrins.

No. 514.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March* 18, 1879.

I WAS presented to-day by Mr. White to Prince Charles; the interview lasted over an hour. His Royal Highness expressed much desire for friendly relations with Bulgaria, and seemed [? anxious] for Russian evacuation, yet afraid of its consequences, if premature [group wrong], in Bulgaria or along Balkan.

To-morrow early I am going to Rustchuk, and expect to reach Tirnova on Thursday evening.

No. 515.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 18, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs gives me following names of places on frontier offered to Greece, beginning at the Gulf of Volo:—

1st, Rus of Thebes; 2nd, Tchanly; 3rd, [?] rikeui; 4th, Musaki; 5th, Nicolitscha; 6th, Persiaa, whence it rejoins present land frontier.

I cannot find Nos. 3 and 5 on the map, and must inquire further. Instructions were sent on Saturday night.

No. 516.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 18, 1879.

FOLLOWING has been sent to Wolff to-day:—

"In consequence of your telegram of 14th instant, I spoke to Russian Ambassador on the 15th instant about exile to Siberia of a Turk, and his Excellency said he would inquire about it."

No. 517.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 274, Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Russian Commissioners for delimitation of Asiatic frontier have arrived, and that though Her Majesty's Commissioner is not to take part in delimitation, except for the frontier between Karaourghan and Persia, his Excellency would be very grateful for his presence here and officious assistance, as there are points of importance in which he fears that Turkish Commissioner may be over-reached.

No. 518.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 18, 1879.

I HAVE received following telegram from Consul at Aleppo, dated to-day:—

"I have ascertained that Vali has received no communication as to dismissal or leaving Aleppo, as your telegram mentioned.

"I hear that the Palace objects to his dismissal until result of inquiry is known, though exact faults are of public notoriety. Serious events are imminent if more bloodshed is not immediately averted, by showing the Christians that they will not be

sacrificed. I also hear that Midhat Pasha has been induced to telegraph in Kiamil Pasha's favour, although not acquainted with him. I deem it my duty to keep you confidentially informed of all these particulars."

No. 519.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1879.

MR. CALVERT of Adrianople writes under date of the 17th, and reports that nothing can exceed solicitude of Reouf Pasha and those under him for the maintenance of public order and calming apprehension and promoting harmony between all sections of the people.

No. 520.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER has assured me that he dismissed Vali of Aleppo by his own casting vote in the Council; that he submitted two names to Sultan from whom to select a successor; and that he will insist on orders being confirmed at Palace. I have pressed matter on every possible occasion, and will to-day act on your telegram of the 18th. I told Minister of the Interior yesterday that he was responsible for every death that now occurred among Christian prisoners, and on his remonstrating I consented to division of responsibility among Cabinet.

No. 521.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday of 2 P.M., I have made inquiry as to possibility of published despatch having been stolen from the Embassy, and I have satisfied myself that the precautions invariably taken render it out of the question.

No. 522.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 19, 1879.

AT an interview I had to-night with Prince Gortchacow, his Highness drew up a Memorandum embodying three propositions and a suggestion, which he desired me to telegraph to you textually in following terms:—

"1. That the assurances which Lord Dufferin has given us, and which have been approved by Her Majesty's Government, viz., that the British Government will be ready at all times to urge upon the Porte in the most energetic manner to respect and maintain inviolate the administrative rights and privileges about to be granted to Roumelia, and the British Government consider themselves as much interested as Russia in seeing that these institutions shall be respected by Turks; that these assurances should be reduced by Her Majesty's Government to form of a positive instruction to their Representative at Constantinople.

"As soon as we shall have learnt that these instructions have been dispatched from London, we shall address similar instructions to Russian Ambassador. If this simultaneous action were taken loyally, and with the necessary energy, Porte would be convinced of understanding which exists on this subject between the two Governments. It is difficult to suppose such a conviction would not exercise a favourable influence on the conduct of the Porte.

"Lord Dufferin promised to telegraph in the above sense, expressing at the same time his wish that the corresponding promises of the Imperial Government should also be inserted, viz., that if the Bulgarians of Roumelia oppose introduction of the régime granted to province in virtue of Treaty of Berlin, the Russian Government would neither support nor protect them, but would exert all their influence to induce them to submit to these arrangements.

"2. I begged Lord Dufferin to repeat to his Government importance we attach to the Governor-General of Roumelia not having the faculty of summoning Turkish troops into the province before the Powers shall have pronounced on value of motives which would justify calling in of those troops under the Treaty of Berlin.

"3. In view of increasing gravity of situation and the shortness of time, Russian Government are ready to discuss every practical means of preventing the dangers which they foresee. The 5th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin mentioned a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia suggested by Count Andrassy and supported by Lord Beaconsfield.

"Since then this idea had been abandoned; nevertheless, lately it was touched upon in the interviews between Lord Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff, and his Lordship did not seem opposed to it.

"I begged Lord Dufferin to inquire what his Government think of such a combination, adding that if they would take the initiative we would be prepared to discuss details and means of carrying it into effect.

"Lord Dufferin promised to charge himself with this communication.

"Lord Dufferin inquired whether, on our side, we would not give up our opposition to Rustem Pasha. I told him that it was not an opposition on our part, but that we had thought it right to expose reasons which made us look upon this choice as not answering to wishes of Powers on account of bad impression it would make upon the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia.

"I added that we had heard that it had been proposed lately to give Rustem Pasha an assistant in the person of Aleko Pasha, and that on our side, although we did not know him, we should have no objection to his being proposed as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia."

I again repeated to his Highness my firm conviction that Her Majesty's Government would never consent to his propsition that a reference to the Cabinets of Europe should precede entry of the Turkish troops into the province.

It would be well not to reply to this until I telegraph what Count Schouvaloff says to me this morning. Perhaps the prolongation of European Commission might be substituted for this.

No. 523.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 19, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY has now good hopes of the conclusion of the Novi-Bazar Convention, and seems disposed to be ready to name the places to which Austrian garrisons are to be sent, with a proviso that Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza might at a future time be occupied upon the invitation or with the concurrence of the Porte.

The opinion of the Commander-in-chief of the Herzegovina upon certain points has been called for, and when it is received Count Andrassy's final decision will be sent to Constantinople.

His Excellency greatly attributes this favourable turn of affairs to your Lordship's representations to the Porte.

No. 524.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, March 19, 1879.

WITHOUT mentioning Sir D. Wolff's telegram of 16th, I impressed strongly on French Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon the importance of finishing the Roumelian Statute speedily. He entirely concurred in this view. I suggested to him to send, by telegraph, a positive instruction to M. de Ring to be expeditious, and he seemed disposed to do so.

No. 525.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 72.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1879.

I HAVE received, and laid before the Queen, your Excellency's despatch No. 13 of the 12th instant, reporting the substance of what had passed at your first interview with the Emperor on the previous day.

I have now to convey to your Excellency the approval by Her Majesty's Government of the language used by you on this occasion, in reply to His Majesty's observations, as to the policy of this country and Russia with regard to the Eastern question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 526.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 350.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1879.

COUNT MONTEBELLO has communicated to me a despatch from his Government with respect to the De Tocqueville proposal, and expressed the wish to know what the attitude of Her Majesty's Government was in respect to it.

I stated to the Count that the De Tocqueville proposal, as it stood, appeared to me to be inadmissible on several grounds. Among other objections, I pointed out that, in dealing with the securities belonging to previous creditors, their interests were not sufficiently protected, and that too large a Commission, a Commission amounting, I believed, almost 1,000,000 sterling, was accorded to M. de Tocqueville, who simply acted as intermediary.

He then asked me if I was prepared to consent to the proposal for a group of capitalists represented by the Ottoman bank, which contemplated adopting the De Tocqueville Convention with some modifications.

I said that it was impossible to express an opinion until I saw what the modifications were, for the Count must see that we could not possibly be parties to any arrangement which dealt unfairly with the prior holders of the securities which it was proposed to hypothecate to the new loan. At the same time, I pointed out to him that it was a question of considerable importance whether the transfer of authority the Porte proposed to make to the Commissioners who were to be nominated by the two European Governments was to be sanctioned by an agreement between the Porte and those Governments, or only by an agreement between the Porte and its new creditors.

Count de Montebello promised to bring this point to the attention of M. Waddington.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 527.

The Marquis of of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 27. Confidential.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1879.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this evening to speak to me with respect to the state of the negotiations in Turkey, and especially he urged upon me, on behalf of his Government, the claim of Greece to the town of Janina. He pressed this point, not only on ethnological and philological grounds, but also on considerations of policy. He was apprehensive that, unless this cession were made, a new Albanian

nationality might be formed, which would be hostile to the Greeks, and which would lend itself to Slavonic intrigue. He also spoke as if a cession which should observe the lines of the Congress, as we understand them, would be too inconsiderable to satisfy the claims of Greece, and would give her a just right to complain. I combated this last observation, pointing out that the extent of territory, though it would not be large, if it were the result of a successful war, was a considerable acquisition when looked upon as the consequence of purely diplomatic exertion. I could not accept his view of the dangerous character of an Albanian nationality. They had not in the past shown themselves unsympathetic with the Greeks; they were very unlikely to be worked upon by the Montenegrins, with whom they had been in perpetual quarrel; and that if we were to speculate upon the possible contingency of a disappearance of the Turkish Empire, even upon that hypothesis, I felt confident that Greece would run no risk of the establishment of any influence among them more powerful than her own. Their geographical position, and their relations with their neighbours, would secure to her a dominant position over them.

I pointed out to him at the same time that too obstinate an insistance upon this point might peril all the advantages which Greece could hope to gain from the determinations of the Congress. The resentment of the Mahommedans was the greatest danger which the Government of Constantinople had to fear, and its proportions were believed to be certainly not underrated in the mind of the Sultan. Rather than accept any policy which should place the Government at issue with its Mussulman subjects, I was convinced that the Sultan would prefer to come to an understanding with Russia, whose objects, whatever they were, were certainly not favourable to the expansion of Greece. There were advisers about him whose names are sufficiently well known, and to whom such an issue would not be unwelcome; and Greece would be pursuing a course very prejudicial to her own interests if she pressed the Sultan to such a point as to bring into play his notorious apprehensions upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 528.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 2.) *London, March 20, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to invite your attention to a preliminary step which appears indispensable to the performance of the duties of the Commission, namely, the appointment of a sufficiently strong and reliable escort to maintain order in the area within which their proceedings will take place.

A Turkish escort would most conveniently fulfil this duty after the withdrawal of the Russian troops, were it not for the difficulty which might be found in obtaining for it due authority to guard a space on the Bulgarian as well as on the Roumelian side of the frontier.

Should this difficulty be found insuperable, I would suggest that a body of light cavalry (the force to be determined later) might be furnished for the purpose from the troops of one of the Signatory Powers, and that possibly those least open to objection might be Italian troops.

I venture to bring this subject to your notice because, having with me a body of officers who will be required to work on the frontier for the service of the Commission, England has so far a stronger interest in the question than any other of the Signatory Powers.

I also venture to point out that only the joint consent of those Powers, specially given, can supply the authority requisite for the full performance of this duty by the troops of any one of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 529.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1879.*

I HAVE just seen Count Schouvaloff. A more detailed proposition for a mixed occupation of 10,000 European troops for perhaps a year will be telegraphed to Russian Embassy to-night.

Count Schouvaloff begs me to say that he earnestly hopes it will receive your favourable consideration. He does not consider that the arrangement will entail exclusion of Balkan garrison; but he suggests that in the meantime the Turkish Government might prepare their fortresses and barracks for reception of their troops, whilst the entry of the troops themselves might be postponed till present excitement had subsided. He observes that the acceptance of foregoing plan would, *ipso facto*, nullify Prince Gortchacow's second proposition, telegraphed to you this morning, of a reference to European Cabinets before Turkish troops could act in province.

No. 530.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 223.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 19, 1879.*

THE Porte telegraphed last night to Turkish Ambassador at Paris that it considered the Tocqueville Convention as null and void.

No. 531.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 19, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's message about Vali of Aleppo and Zeitoun to the Grand Vizier this afternoon. His Highness said he would communicate it at once to the Palace, in order to obtain Iradé confirming the decision of Council to remove him.

No. 532.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 226. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 19, 1879.*

THE Grand Vizier was glad of your Lordship's message about Aleppo. He said that the difficulty was at the Palace. That all his efforts had hitherto failed to obtain Iradé. His Highness said he was thwarted at every turn by his own Ministers.

He spoke in most gloomy tones of his position, and said he could not get his orders executed.

I asked why he did not turn them all out and form a Cabinet which would obey him. It seemed useless to be Grand Vizier if he had no power.

His Highness said that it must come to that, but not just at present.

No. 533.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

NICHOLITSCHA, the northern point on the offered Greek frontier, is only to be found on the Austrian Staff map. It must be near Lapeniza on Kiepert. The other point which I had not found is Mukrichorio on Kiepert.

No. 534.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Calvert from Adrianople :—

"Two fugitive women came in to-day, 19th, wounded, reporting to authorities general massacre perpetrated by Bulgarians at Sadicly, Ingely, and Sarhanli, three villages in Eastern Roumelia beyond Mustapha Pasha, themselves being only survivors."

(Sent to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.)

No. 535.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram of yesterday, would it be right for me to submit to the Porte Prince of Montenegro's proposal, which involves the representation of the Prince at Constantinople by Russia ?

No. 536.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

ON the 17th instant Italian Minister addressed another note to the Porte claiming Italian Representatives in any Board of Administrators which may be formed, and reiterating his opinion that the moment was come for the Commission under Protocol 18.

No. 537.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

MR. FOSTER offers to lend to Colonel Biddulph the Chief Interpreter of the Ottoman Bank, Baron Hübsch. His salary would be 50*l.* a-month. Mr. Foster observes that it would be possible to get cheaper service, but he thinks the affair is too important to be placed in inferior hands for the sake of economy.

No. 538.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

Cettinjé, March 19, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet :—

"I find Prince determined not to permit, for the present, Consul at Podgoritza. Austrian and Russian Representatives justify. His Highness has, however, expressed anxiety to prove desire to be on good terms with Turkey; he, therefore, has overlooked failure of Sultan to answer telegram, and he has now directed Russian Ambassador to acquaint Porte that His Highness desires to enter into friendly relations, but that, for financial reasons, Montenegro is not able to appoint a Representative at present, and consequently His Highness has requested Russian Government to permit its Ambassador to represent him at Constantinople. Prince hopes this second act of courtesy will induce Sultan to answer his telegram. I believe that Chief of Prince's Foreign Chancery will write to Aali Bey, the Second Commissioner, in a private form, to say that having heard from me [two groups wrong] Turkish authorities to removal

of Osman Bey, he begs to assure them that no slight whatever was intended, and that measure had to be adopted for local administrative reasons.

"Above are all the concessions I am likely to obtain, and I advise their acceptance, as they offer direct intercourse with Principality.

"I shall await your reply."

No. 539.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 20, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet :—

"With reference to my telegram of last night, I recommend that Porte should accept step of Russian Ambassador on behalf of Montenegro only for this once to enable Turkey to enter into direct intercourse with the Principality [?] the appointment immediately of a Turkish Representative here could be explained as more convenient for both countries, and avoid appearance of a foreign protectorate of the Principality."

No. 540.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 19, 1879.*

COMMISSIONERS met at Prevesa yesterday. Turkish Delegates made a proposal in regard to new frontier, consisting of a narrow strip of country from Gulf of Volo parallel with present Greek frontier, including Domoko and ending at River Aspropot [?]; this was considered by Greek Delegates entirely unacceptable; they expressed the opinion that it was useless to prolong negotiations in view of wide divergence proposed by Porte from the line recommended at Berlin.

A protocol recording the above was signed; farewell visits have been exchanged. Ottoman Commissioners expressed regret at failure of negotiations, and proposed to telegraph to Constantinople.

It is thought that Greek Commissioners have left Prevesa to-day.

Greek Government will now at once claim mediation of Great Powers.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 541.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 20, 1879.*

GREEK Commissioner left Prevesa for Athens yesterday morning.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 542.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 175 of the 5th ultimo, when will Lieutenant Chermside be available for service of Bulgarian Boundary Commission ? Please reply at once.

No. 543.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

INFORM the Turkish Government that Major Clarke, who has been appointed British Commissioner for the demarcation of the Asiatic frontier, will proceed to Constantinople as soon as possible.

No. 544.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

INFORM the Government to which you are accredited that Major-General Hamley, of the Royal Artillery, will start for Constantinople next week as British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontiers, in place of the late Colonel Home.

No. 545.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 369.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the representations made by you to the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 179 of the 25th ultimo, relative to the misgovernment of the Vali of Aleppo, Kiamil Pasha, and to the appointment of his successor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 546.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 370.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE to state to you that I approve your having notified to Carathéodory Pasha, as stated in your despatch No. 214, Very Confidential, of the 7th instant, your apprehension with regard to M. Castellano's scheme for the nomination of an European Governor of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 547.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 372.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 211 of the 7th instant, and, in reply, I have to state to you that I concur with you in thinking that it is extremely desirable that the inquiry into the troubles at Zeitoun should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and I have to authorize you to urge the Porte to dispatch the Commission which is charged with the task without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 548.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 373.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the communication you have made to the Grand Vizier of the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the maintenance of the Sultan's right in Eastern Roumelia, under the Treaty of Berlin, and to the occupation of the Balkans by the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 208 of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 549.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.**

(No. 375.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the Rustchuk and Varna Railway Company, calling attention to M. de Tocqueville's scheme for the readjustment of the finances of the Porte, and to its bearing upon the position of that Company as embodied in the Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.†

I also forward at the same time a copy of the reply which I have caused to be returned to Mr. Wollaston Blake's letter.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 550.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 51.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

THIS letter will be presented to you by M. Timoni, the Agent of the Varna Railway Company, and I have to instruct you to render him such assistance as you may be able properly to afford him in guarding the interests of the Company as secured to them under Article X of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 551.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th instant, and to state to you, in reply, that I should wish you to return to Constantinople, in order to resume the operations which have not yet been completed of tracing the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

I avail myself of the opportunity to request that you will be good enough to make arrangements for leaving this country at an early date, as it is desirable that the work of the Commission of which you are a member should not be delayed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Consul-General Palgrave.

† No. 287. ‡ No. 556.

No. 552.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 20th March, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram which has been received from Mr. Malet, intimating the wish of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for your presence at Constantinople in connection with the delimitation of the frontiers between Russia and Turkey in Asia;* and I have to state to you that, under the circumstances explained in this telegram, I should wish you to proceed there as soon as possible, and to inform me of the day in which you will be ready to leave England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 553.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Lingen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the salaries and allowances of the several officers attached to the European Commissions for the demarcation of frontiers under the Treaty of Berlin, and to my letter of the 14th December last, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state that it was considered expedient in November last to detail a British officer to attend the meetings of the Turkish and Russian Commissioners charged with the demarcation of the new frontier of Turkey in Asia.

Colonel Home, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Bulgarian frontier, having at that time returned to Constantinople, he was requested to detail an officer from his staff for this duty, and Major F. C. Clarke was accordingly selected by him for the purpose, and started at once for Batoum, where the Commissioners had met, leaving Constantinople at the commencement of December, and returning in the middle of January to that capital, from whence he proceeded to this country.

Lord Salisbury has been in communication with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War on the subject of the salary to be assigned to Major Clarke while engaged on this service, during which he was in an independent and responsible position, and was necessarily liable to incur expenses considerably greater than when acting on Colonel Home's staff. It is Colonel Stanley's opinion, in which Lord Salisbury concurs, that the salary should be fixed at a rate intermediate between that received by Colonel Home and Major Wilson as Chief Commissioners, and that accorded to the officers acting under their orders.

I am accordingly to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to sanction the issue to Major Clarke of salary at the rate of 725*l.* per annum from the date of his leaving Constantinople for Batoum to that of his arrival in England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 554.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will inform Secretary Colonel Stanley that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has represented to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople that the Russian Commissioners for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier have arrived in that city, and that his Excellency is extremely anxious that Major Clarke should proceed there at once in order to give his officious assistance to the Turkish Commissioners, as there are points of importance not included in the

* No. 517.

district between Karaourgan and Persia in which his Excellency fears that the latter may be overreached.

I am to add that a letter has been addressed this day to Major Clarke directing him to start for Constantinople as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 555.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will move Secretary Colonel Stanley to inform Major-General Hamley that his Lordship is extremely anxious that he should start for Constantinople with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 556.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Blake.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, calling attention to the scheme of M. de Tocqueville for the readjustment of the finances of the Porte, and to its bearing upon the position of the Rustchuk and Varna Railway as embodied in the Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

In reply, I am to state to you that, until the Government of the Principality of Bulgaria is definitively organized, the conditions implied in the above Article will not have been carried out, and that therefore the time has not yet arrived when it will be possible to bring into execution this portion of the Treaty.

I am, however, to add that a copy of your letter shall be communicated to Her Majesty's Diplomatic Agents at Constantinople and in Bulgaria, together with a copy of this letter.

With reference to the request contained in your second letter of the 7th instant, I am further directed by Lord Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a letter which his Lordship has caused to be addressed to Mr. Palgrave, directing him to render such assistance to M. Timoni, the Agent of the Varna Railway Company, as he may be able properly to afford to him.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 557.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 44. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, March 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that I had yesterday an opportunity to inquire of Kiamil Pasha how long the present state of relations between the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments was likely to last, and to express my readiness, should his Excellency desire it, to endeavour to smooth away misunderstandings.

Kiamil Pasha said that the manner in which Osman Bey had been expelled from Podgoritza obliged him to decline holding any further intercourse with Prince Nicholas' Government until the Porte had obtained some redress for a slight which it had suffered through having placed confidence in assurances given by the Ambassador at Constantinople.

* No. 550.

I here interrupted the Pasha, and begged to express the belief that he, as far as Sir Henry Layard was concerned, was labouring under a misconception in thinking his Excellency had engaged that the Montenegrin Government should permit Osman Bey to reside at Podgoritza. I would, however, ascertain beyond doubt at once if, through some error in my reports, the Ambassador had been led to give such an assurance; and, had he done so, I should be bound to do all in my power to obtain the expected reparation.

Kiamil Pasha replied that he had not only to complain of the Podgoritza incident, but also of the disregard shown for the stipulation contained in the Vir-Bazar Protocol, by which it was agreed that a temporary frontier line should be based on the indications given by the natives of the localities mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin. The Montenegrins had on the western shores of Lake Scutari maintained their original positions in spite of the unfavourable evidence of the inhabitants.

I again had to interrupt his Excellency, to explain that I believed in this matter, too, a misapprehension existed, for, when I was recently at Cettinjé, the Prince had informed me that, through some alleged errors in the names on the Austrian Staff Map, his posts would have to retire temporarily a considerable distance, and that, notwithstanding the unfavourable impression it would cause among his people, he would issue orders for the strict observance of the terms of the Vir-Bazar Protocol. I was, therefore, convinced that if the Turkish authorities had continued their amicable relations with Montenegro they would have secured the right they claim.

Kiamil Pasha then said that he presumed I could, at all events, not explain away the harsh treatment by the Montenegrins of the Mahommedans who had been brought under their jurisdiction, and which had driven upwards of 3,000 men, women, and children to seek refuge in Scutari.

I expressed my astonishment at the cause given by his Excellency for the removal of these Moslems, as it was entirely at variance with what had been told me quite recently by the Turkish authorities themselves. Hussein Pasha had even contemplated writing a letter of thanks to M. Bojio Petrovich, the Governor of Podgoritza, to thank him for the extreme consideration with which he was treating the inhabitants. Many of the Mahommedans, before deciding to remain or to return to the annexed districts, had come and obtained assurances from me that their rights and safety were secured by the Treaty of Berlin; and, instead of any having returned to complain that I had misled them, several had called to thank me for the correct information I had given them, and to reassure them concerning warnings they had heard in Scutari, that they would be ultimately forced into changing their religion. Kiamil Pasha ought to have been aware that most of the 3,000 immigrants had come here with the hope of bettering their positions and securing some of the compensations which had been so lavishly promised by certain officials, and that not a single house nor field had been really abandoned.

I challenged his Excellency to furnish me with a list of the persons who had been driven away through the cruel acts of the Montenegrins, and I promised him that I would most carefully examine each separate case, and, if any could be substantiated, I would not hesitate to recall to the Prince of Montenegro's recollection the safeguards under which the Mahommedans in his Principality were placed by the Treaty of Berlin.

I thought it right at the same time to caution Kiamil Pasha against falling into the slough of intrigue, which it unfortunately appeared impossible to dry up here, and to remind his Excellency that a few weeks hence the Turkish Government would not be able to avoid entering once again into communication with Montenegro when the Delimitation Commission would be constituted, and that, therefore, the longer the present estrangement lasted the less dignified would be a compulsory termination of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 558.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 10, 1879.*

ALTHOUGH I have no information corroborating the impression of my Austrian colleague, I think it right to report to your Lordship that M. Lippich believes that intrigues are going on here and in Montenegro to maintain a feeling of uneasiness in this country.

M. Lippich tells me that Hussein Pasha, who at first greatly interested himself to induce the inhabitants of Podgoritza to immigrate to Scutari, recently, in a desponding manner, told the most influential among the fugitives that he feared their escape from Christian rule would prove useless, as he had reason to believe that before three months were over North Albania would be held by Italy.

M. Lippich further assures me that a deputation of Mohammedans which went to pay its respects to Prince Nicholas at Cettinjé was told by his Highness to recommend its co-religionists not to abandon their homes, for they would thus secure the advantage of being governed by a Prince of their own race, instead of speedily falling under the rule of strangers and Italians.

The only facts which may be connected with the above reports are the following:—

The Italian Government is evidently anxious to create an impression that it is taking no interest in this country by delaying to replace its lately withdrawn Consular officers.

The Panslavist Russian emissary, Colonel Becker, has returned to and is residing at Corfu, together with M. Blagio Petrovich, a first cousin and Aide-de-camp of Prince Nicholas, who was sent to the island on the plea of ill-health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 559.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 26.) 3, *Astwood Road, Cromwell Road, South Kensington,*
My Lord, *March 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 13, and, in reply, beg to state, for your Lordship's information, that, subject to the approval of His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief, I will be prepared to return to Constantinople by the steamer which leaves Marseilles on Saturday, the 29th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 560.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Bartholomei, March 21, 1879.

ON ne saurait perdre de vue les dangers sérieux dont la surexcitation actuelle des esprits menacerait la tranquillité de la Roumélie Orientale le jour où les troupes Russes l'évacueraient sans que ce pays ne soit encore doté d'une organisation autonome ni même délimité dans ses frontières. Les désordres survenus dernièrement à Slivno confirment suffisamment ces appréhensions. L'éventualité d'une évacuation de la Roumélie Orientale sous de telles circonstances compromettrait gravement l'œuvre accomplie à Berlin dans l'intérêt de la paix générale.

En vue d'un péril aussi imminent et s'inspirant de l'esprit de ce Traité Sa Majesté l'Empereur est d'avis que:

(1.) La Commission d'Organisation, après avoir rempli sa tâche et obtenu à Constantinople la sanction du Sultan, retournerait en Roumélie Orientale pour surveiller sur place la mise en vigueur des nouvelles institutions, achever l'organisation de la

gendarmerie indigène et installer le Gouverneur-Général en l'assistant de ses conseils et de son autorité.

(2.) Conformément à la proposition faite par le Comte Andrassy et appuyée par le Comte Beaconsfield, qui se trouve relatée dans le Protocole 5 du Congrès de Berlin, et comme mesure préventive contre les conséquences qui découleraient infailliblement du retour des troupes Turques dans la Roumélie Orientale, une force militaire mixte formée de contingents Européens s'élevant de 10,000 à 15,000 hommes, repartis entre celles des Puissances qui voudraient y contribuer, sera cantonnée dans la province afin d'appuyer l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général, garantir la sécurité de la Commission de Délimitation, et prévenir des conflits.

(3.) Le terme d'une année semblerait nécessaire pour la durée de la présence de ces contingents étrangers.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères reconnaîtra sans doute l'urgence de mesures semblables.

Le Cabinet Impérial serait prêt à s'entendre avec les Puissances sur les voies et moyens d'exécution si ces idées rencontraient en principe leur assentiment.

No. 561.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 20, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Convention negotiations seem approaching termination, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs has insisted upon a sentence in the preamble [? confirm]ing the "engagements made at Berlin." Austrian Ambassador wishes to suppress word Berlin, and to say "anterior engagements." He has telegraphed for instructions. His Excellency has not yet received answer of his Government regarding third point of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

No. 562.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 20, 1879.

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. Palgrave from Rustchuk to-day:—

"Yesterday I had a long audience of Prince Charles. He entered into all the Bulgarian questions of territory, constitution, &c.; seems anxious for the Russian evacuation, yet fearful of effect within the Principality itself, and on the Balkan frontier, if premature. He asked much about candidature, and would, I think, like his younger brother elected; not a bad idea perhaps: What say you? Take Lord Salisbury's opinion, please, about it?

"I hope to be at Tirnova to-morrow."

No. 563.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 234.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received a message from the Porte to say Vali of Aleppo has been relieved of his functions, and that Omer Pasha takes his place provisionally. The latter is the General in command at Aleppo, and the arrangement is in accordance with my request.

No. 564.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 20, 1879.

A DECREE has been issued to-day stating that the Government has decided to levy all revenues in future in coin, and to set aside a fiftieth part for the withdrawa of the paper currency. The last quotation is 526 paper piastres to 100 gold piastres.

No. 565.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Calvert, Adrianople, dated 20th:—

"Reported massacre at Turkish village near Mustapha-Pasha confirmed. Particulars not yet received, but I hope to furnish them to-morrow by post."

No. 566.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

I DO not think Lieutenant Chermside will be available for Bulgarian delimitation if he goes to Aleppo with the Commission, and it is most important that he should go there. I trust the Aleppo Commission may start next week, but its labours will last a considerable time.

No. 567.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

THE names of the three places which Austria proposes to occupy in the Sandjak of Novi-bazar are Plewje, Prijepolje, and Taschlydscha.

No. 568.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 20, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador formally proposed yesterday to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia. French Minister answered that he had no objection to it in principle, but that he could hold out no hope that France would take part in it.

No. 569.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1879.

COULD you inform me of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the Articles of Bulgarian Constitution relative to Prince?

Count Andrassy considers that Treaty having laid down course to be followed in case of vacancy, Assembly would not be authorized in declaring that his son shall succeed him. Article speaks of vacancy of the "Princely dignity," and it does not

appear to me quite clear that this precludes the Assembly from making that dignity hereditary, and I should therefore be glad to know whether Her Majesty's Government take the same view as Count Andrassy.

No. 570.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 19, 1879.*

WE passed to-day Chapters on Militia and Gendarmerie.

Schmidt and Coutouly have returned. General Stolipine summoned two regiments to Slivno, but said that Schmidt could not pursue his journey without great military expeditions, of which he would not take the responsibility. He said he could not stop these manifestations without shedding blood, and this he would not do without an order from the Emperor. If this order were given, he would resign his place and his commission. He therefore advised them to return to [? Philippopolis]. He promises to send the Slivno chest here.

Coutouly was the object of ovations to the French Republic. He was presented to the crowd by the Bulgarian colonel, and to the Militia by General Stolipine. A deputation, consisting of President of Court of Appeal and another [group wrong] official, asked General's leave to give Coutouly an ovation, and he was crowned with garlands. In one or two speeches he said that the "French Commissioners" had done their best to cause wishes of Bulgarians to be taken into consideration. This was translated to his audience as "the French Government."

I have material for making strong protest in the case of Osman Bey; but finding that Russian officers are very excited on the subject, I have abstained from doing so for fear of Osman himself being worse treated. He has appealed to Military Court at Sophia, and I beg to urge a very strong representation at St. Petersburgh.

Coutouly says that excitement got up by Bulgarian agitators and Russian officers is now quite beyond their control.

General Skobeleff's Chief of the Staff, who accompanied the two regiments, told General Stolipine that if ordered to fire on the crowd he would give up his sword.

I received your telegram. Send instructions both as to finance and Osman Bey.
(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 571.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 20, 1879.*

COUTOULY and Schmidt both have clear evidence that emigration into Eastern Roumelia is caused by Russian agency. They met 400 Greeks from Demotica under charge of a Russian captain. These said they had left their homes because they were told by some one in authority, whom they did not name, that they were not safe from the Turks; and they were promised houses, lands, and buffaloes at Kezanlik.

The militia and volunteers at Slivno were in a high state of discipline under Russian officers and sergeants.

I have received your telegram of the 18th instant. I earnestly hope a mixed occupation will be decided upon. In my opinion it is the best chance of a peaceful solution. If France does not take part in it, all the better.

No. 572.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 20, 1879.*

COUTOULY has been with me, and we have had a long explanation. He says that Stolipine made exciting speeches against the Turks. He gives alarming accounts

of discipline and organization of militia in the provinces. The enthusiasm for France, he says, is derived from Bulgarian feeling of Republicanism, and the desire to find a foreign protective influence other than that of Russia. I am more convinced than before that without a mixed occupation grave difficulties will arise. The Bulgarians like our [?] institutions, and would accept it if guaranteed against Turks. A year of repose and security against bad Government would do much.
(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 573.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 21, 1879.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the appeal of Osman Bey, and the assurance given privately that his sentence would not be carried out, he was to-day summoned on parade, his sentence was read to him, and his family were told he would be sent off to-morrow. The Turkish Commissioner and ourselves, who were at the Commission, at once went to the konak, and in the absence of the Governor-General his Secretary informed us positively that he would not be sent off until the Governor-General received his sentence, and he would say, though not officially, that he was assured the sentence would be modified. The Governor-General returns this evening.

No. 574.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 20, 1879.*

M. DEPRETIS has received news of recall of Greek Commissioners from Prevesa, which, he thinks, was to be foreseen as the consequence of last Turkish proposals.

No. 575.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me the proposal as to mixed occupation.

I have received definitive answer for Cabinet to-morrow, but meanwhile have said that we have not changed our point of view since Berlin: that we considered two conditions indispensable; first, that Turkey should assent; secondly, that the Turks should form part of the occupying army; that the proceeding must be looked upon as being in pursuance of, and accordance with, the Treaty of Berlin, but in no sense a modification; and that every right possessed under that Treaty by the Turks would remain to them still.

No. 576.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 47 of yesterday, we shall attach great weight to the opinion at which Austrian Government may finally arrive, because they have a special interest in the destiny of Bulgaria. But we have been inclined to favour an hereditary Princedom, because, otherwise, we shall never be safe from a repetition of the Couza trick on any vacancy.

No. 577.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1879.

I APPROVE your proceedings reported in your telegram No. 221 of the 19th instant to procure dismissal of Vali of Aleppo.

No. 578.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 92.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from a telegram which I have addressed to you to-day, that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court has communicated to me the proposal of his Government that, on its evacuation by the Russian army, the Province of Eastern Roumelia should be occupied for one year by a mixed force of 10,000 or 15,000 troops, to be furnished by such of the Powers as desire to contribute a contingent, and that I have abstained from giving him a definitive reply until after the meeting of the Cabinet, which is fixed for to-morrow. In the meanwhile, however, I have stated provisionally to M. Bartholomei that Her Majesty's Government have not changed the views they held at the time of the signature of the Berlin Treaty, and that they still consider two conditions indispensable to the measure proposed, namely, that, in the first place, Turkey should give her assent to it; and that, secondly, Turkish troops should be admitted, if Turkey wished it, to form part of the mixed army of occupation.

I added that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the proposed proceeding must be looked upon as being in pursuance of and in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and must in no sense be considered a modification thereof; and that all the rights and privileges secured to the Turks by that Treaty would continue to belong to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 579.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 392.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE informed you in a telegram which I have sent you to-day that Her Majesty's Government approve the efforts you have made, as reported in your telegram No. 221 of the 19th instant, with a view to procuring the dismissal from his post of Kiamil Pasha, the Vali of the district of Aleppo, on account of the ill-treatment of Christians at Zeitoun.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 580.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 172.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, No. 47, in which you inquire the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the Articles of the projected Constitution for Bulgaria which relate to the Prince, and state that Count Andrassy considers that it would be contrary to the Treaty of Berlin to make the princely dignity hereditary.

You have received a copy of Mr. Malet's telegram of the 10th instant, No. 175, in which he informed me of the nature of the objections which the Turkish Representative at Tirnova had been instructed to make to the Project of Constitutions,

among which were included protests against Articles 18 and 19, on the ground that the Treaty of Berlin did not make the princely dignity hereditary. Upon receiving this information Her Majesty's Government instructed Mr. Palgrave to support his Turkish colleague to a certain extent, namely, in objecting to the 1st, 2nd, and 16th Articles of the Project; but they expressly avoided touching upon that portion of the Turkish objections which referred to making the princely succession hereditary. They maintained a similar reserve when the Porte, in the note communicated by Musurus Pasha, copy of which is inclosed, called special attention to the 22nd Article, by which the hereditary succession is established, and claimed that it should be struck out of the Constitution.

As regards this point, therefore, Her Majesty's Government are not committed, and, as the Austro-Hungarian Government have a special interest in the destiny of Bulgaria, Her Majesty's Government will naturally attach great weight to the opinion respecting it, at which Count Andrassy may finally arrive. They are disposed, however, to agree with you in doubting whether the terms of the IIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, in which provision is made for the event of a vacancy in the princely dignity, preclude the Assembly from making that dignity hereditary; and they are inclined on point of policy to favour the idea of a hereditary princedom, as without it there would be no security against a repetition of the Couza stratagem being attempted whenever a vacancy occurred.

Your Excellency is authorized, while endeavouring to ascertain the views of Count Andrassy, to speak generally to him in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 581.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 29. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, March* 3, 1879.

I HAVE had the honour to mention in the latter part of my despatch No. 18 of the 8th ultimo the means by which certain Government officials were obtaining money from the prisoners who were about to be released.

I beg now to add that Yussuf Pasha, to whom I communicated the information I had obtained, having notified to the prisoners in question that any sums they might disburse could not influence their release, five or six of them presented to the Pasha a petition, claiming the restitution of money which they had been induced to pay to Keulé Zadé Hassan Effendi.

Yussuf Pasha had no other course opened to him but to submit, as he did, this petition to the Divani Medjliss for investigation and trial.

I have also reported, in my despatch No. 25 of the 20th ultimo, that twenty convicts had been dispatched to Erzeroum, there to undergo their respective terms of penal servitude.

While the preparations for their departure were being made in the courtyard of the Government Palace, two of the convicts openly accused Keulé Zadé Hassan Effendi, the Clerks of the Temiz Medjliss, and Mehmed Aga, the Mulagine of Zaptiehs, spoken of in my despatch No. 18, to have extorted money from them under the promise to obtain their release.

It would seem that the noise caused by this incident was such as to attract the attention of the Pasha, who directed the men to put in writing their accusation.

Yussuf Pasha likewise handed to the Divani Medjliss the petition, which is signed by Hadji Oglou Osman, of Youmrah, and Kahiay Oglou Azijni Oglou, of Tircholi, who state to have paid the first 3,000 piastres, and the second 5,000 piastres in caïmés.

It remains to be seen how these two cases will be dealt with by the Divani Medjliss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 582.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 30. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, March 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Porte has accepted Yussuf Pasha's resignation, and has appointed him First Commissioner for carrying out the reforms in the Vilayet of Erzeroum and neighbouring districts.

He is waiting, since nearly two weeks, for the other members of the Commission from Constantinople to proceed to his new post. Nothing is known here with regard to his successor.

It is to be hoped that the prevailing rumour that a similar Commission is soon to be sent in this province may prove true, and that the Chief Commissioner, or in his absence Yussuf Pasha's successor, will be invested with extraordinary powers enabling him to deal summarily with all officials, without exception, whose conduct may call for dismissal or punishment.

Without this condition the abuses that take place in all the branches of the service, to a degree hitherto unknown, cannot be eradicated.

Half measures are no longer of avail, and Christians as well as Mussulmans unanimously agree that that end cannot be attained unless European Commissioners take part in the work of reform. I strongly concur myself in this opinion.

Corruption was not certainly unknown among Turkish officials, but it never was what it is now. It has extended so much that, with the exception of the Governor-General and a very limited number indeed of functionaries, the numerous employés in this province are opened to bribery.

The general corruption which has invaded of late all the Administrations, whether civil, judicial, executive, or military, must have a direct cause, lately come into existence. That cause can be no other than the reduction, owing to the substitution of paper currency to silver, by three-fourths and more, of the already moderate salaries of Turkish officials.

Many an honest man must have yielded to absolute material necessity, and their number added to that of downright corrupt employés have formed an overwhelming majority, from which resulted a complete disorganization in all the branches of the service.

The reforms should, therefore, be inaugurated by the elimination from the service of thoroughly corrupted functionaries, and the adequate remuneration of those retained, after the abolition of all sinecures.

Measures should be adopted at the same time to convince the Government officials that henceforth their tenure of office will not depend on caprice, and that they will be rewarded or punished according to their deserts.

Of the disorganization which exists in this province I have given numerous examples. I may add that the Kaïmakam of Kerassund has been lately dismissed in consequence of abuses in his administration. He had no friends here, but no decision has been come to with regard to the Kaïmakam of Tireboli, owing to his having protectors at Trebizond.

While officials deserving punishment, such as the Mufti of Rizeh (despatch No. 8 of 23rd January last) continue to retain their posts, some of the few honest functionaries, who are to be found in the service, are left without employment.

At Samsoon things have gone so far that a Circassian named Aslanof, a known murderer and Chief of brigands, who was arrested, but released without trial, lately broke at night into the Government Palace, in order, it appears, to rescue some of his countrymen from prison. A zaptieh was mortally wounded by him.

If similar acts of violence take place in the town, and against the authorities themselves, it is easy to imagine the state of things in the country.

I hear from Erzeroum that the populations of Hinous have brought such charges against the officials in that district that a special Commission is to be forwarded from Erzeroum to make an investigation on the spot.

Corruption amongst the functionaries in that town seems to be as bad, if not worse, than here.

The Vice-President of the Tidjaret Medjliss, Ahmed Aga, is especially mentioned as being the protector of all the malefactors of that vilayet.

It would seem that he was formerly President of the same Court, and that, in consequence of true charges brought against him several years ago by the then

Russian Consul, he was dismissed from the service with orders that he should never be again appointed to any Government office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 583.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 26. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 9, 1879.*

THE General Assembly, after having disposed of the question regarding the settlement of the old debts due by the peasantry, as I had the honour to report in my last despatch of the 3rd instant, has since been engaged in drawing up rules regulating the procedure of the Courts of Law. The Organic Law of Crete has already laid down rules on this subject, but it is silent on some points on which it is important that clear rules should be established, and these omissions have now been supplied. They have reference chiefly to the employment of advocates in the Courts, who must henceforth either hold a diploma from some University, or, in default thereof, pass an examination before a body composed of some of the Judges of the Court of Appeal and of the Court of First Instance at Canea. Rules are also laid down for the guidance of the procureurs, who are, according to the new scheme, to form part of the Courts of Law. The General Assembly has based these supplementary rules on the organization of the Courts which obtains in the Island of Samos, which appears not to differ materially from that prevailing in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 584.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 1. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Smyrna, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship's office a copy of a despatch I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, inclosing a statement of my replies to a series of queries by Her Majesty's Financial Commissioner at Constantinople, with reference to the customs dues, tithes, and land, income, and other taxes levied in this part of the Ottoman dominions. A copy of Mr. Harrison's queries is also respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 584.

Consul Reade to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Smyrna, March 11, 1879.*

CONFORMABLY with the instruction conveyed in your Excellency's despatch of the 17th ultimo, that I should reply to a series of queries by Mr. Harrison, Her Majesty's Financial Commissioner at Constantinople, relatively to the circumstances under which the internal customs dues and the "verghi" and other taxes are levied in this vilayet, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum of the replies I have to offer on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 584.

Queries by Her Majesty's Financial Commissioner at Constantinople with regard to the Internal Customs Dues, Verghi, and other Taxes.

Customs.

1. WHAT duties are at present levied on the external trade?
(1.) On the sea-borne trade from one Turkish port to another?
(2.) In the way of land-transit duties?
2. The effect of such duties on industry and trade. Whether to any extent they appear justifiable or unobjectionable as a source of revenue?

Verghi.

1. Whether the operations of the land registry ("cadastre") have been completed?
2. Whether, if completed, there has been any subsequent revision of the registry?
3. The mode in which the amount payable by each village is determined?
4. Whether persons subject to this tax have the means of knowing the amount at which they are assessed?
5. Whether, at the time of payment, they receive a receipt or acquittance for the amount paid?
6. Whether they are liable to be called on a second time for the amount of this tax?
7. At what season of the year the tax is collected, and whether such season is the most convenient to the taxpayer?
8. Whether persons have the option of paying direct into the local Public Treasury?
9. What means are used for the enforcement of the tax?
10. By what authority the Moukhtars, or collecting agents, are employed?
11. How are they remunerated, and do they give security?
12. Are any deductions in the shape of authorized commissions made from the gross collections before the revenue reaches the Public Treasury?
13. What is the nature of the control exercised by the financial officers at the head-quarters of the vilayet over the progress of the collection of the tax?

Dimes.

1. Are tithes in all cases paid by the cultivator in kind, and, if so, at what rate?
2. Is there any further authorized claim to which the cultivator is liable in connection with the tithe?
3. If paid in part, or whole in money, is the claim of the State based on the actual produce of the year? Or is it made on any other basis, such as an average of the yield of past years, and, if so, for what term is the engagement made?
4. Does the primary receiver of the dimes (the farmer, or his agent, or otherwise) deal directly with each individual cultivator? Or is there any common liability on the part of cultivators for the amount assessed on the village?
5. In case of non-payment owing to loss or failure of crops, is the deficiency made good in succeeding years, and is interest charged in such cases?
6. Are the tithes farmed separately by the Government for each village? If not, what is the extent of the district usually engaged for separately?
7. Where the tithes of villages are separately farmed, is any preference shown to offers made by influential residents?
8. Are engagements entered into with associations of resident cultivators? If so, have they anything of a representative character?
9. Are the farmers persons of substance?
10. What security is taken for the performance of their engagements?
11. What power or right, if any, does the farmer acquire over cultivators, beyond his claim to the Government share of the current season's crop?
12. Do the terms of the farmer's engagements always provide for the payment by him in money?
13. Is it usual to introduce any stipulations as to sub-letting contracts?

14. To what extent is the practice of sub-letting contracts carried?
15. Do sub-lessees acquire all the rights of the principal farmers?
16. What is your opinion as to the advantage and practicability of substituting for the dîmes a land-tax on cultivated lands on the following conditions:—
(1.) A complete registry of the land comprised in each village, in which registry all cultivable land shall be classed into cultivated and uncultivated, both classes being sub-divided into three or more sub-classes, according to the nature of the soil, facilities for irrigation, and similar considerations.
(2.) An assessment to be fixed on each area with reference to the capacity of the soil, and to the facilities for bringing the produce to market, such assessment to be invariable for a term of years.
(3.) The annual registry of all lands brought under cultivation, with the names of the cultivators, the assessment being levied only on land actually cultivated.
(4.) The assessment to be paid on certain fixed days, the cultivator being bound until the assessment shall have been paid in full to retain a certain quantity of produce as security for the Government dues.
The objects to be aimed at in such a system thus briefly sketched would be, as regards the cultivator, to enable him to know exactly beforehand the amount for which he would be liable, to enable him to derive the benefit of his industry, skill, and capital in raising superior crops, and to equalize the advantages or disadvantages arising from differences in facilities for bringing his produce to market, and to enable him, by punctual payment, to free himself from all unnecessary, or by early or anticipated payment, from all interference whatever on the part of Government officers in the disposal of his crops. As regards the Government, the object would be to obtain the advantage of a system of money payments in place of revenue received in kind, and to secure a more regular and earlier revenue for the wants of the public service, and to secure the well-being of the people by diminishing the difference at present existing between the value exacted from them and that accruing to the Treasury.

Military Exemption.

Does the present system of assessing this tax through the spiritual heads of communities offer to the classes affected by the tax any advantages which it is important to them to retain?
If not, would it not be better that the lists of persons liable to the impost should be prepared by the revenue officers of the Government, the lists being made available to those interested, and a sufficient time being allowed for hearing objections to the assessment before the collection is proceeded with?

Inclosure 3 in No. 584.

Replies to Mr. Harrison's Queries and Observations with regard to the Internal Customs Dues, the Verghi, and other Taxes.

Customs.—1. On merchandize passing by sea from one Turkish port to another, a duty of 8 per cent. is levied at the port of embarkation. This duty is charged only on the produce of the country, foreign goods upon which the import duty has once been paid being allowed to pass freely from one point of the Empire to another.
There is no transit duty levied on goods passing by land.
2. The effect of the 8 per cent. duty on articles, the produce or manufacture of this country, passing from one Turkish port to another, is disastrous, so far as the industrial resources of the country are concerned, inasmuch as it constitutes an undoubted premium in favour of foreign productions and industry as against the industry and trade of Turkey, which, owing to the primitive character of some of the institutions of the country, the arbitrary or corrupt rule of local Administrators, and other circumstances, has many other difficulties to contend with than are usually experienced in countries of civilized institutions. In illustration of the evils arising from the exaction of this impost, I may state, as a matter of fact, that when crops fail, in a particular district of the country, the surplus produce of other districts is prevented from being conveyed to it by the enhanced prices which the infliction of the duty involves.
Sometimes the tax becomes doubly or trebly onerous, as, for example, in the

case of cotton which is exported, in the first instance, to another Turkish port, and, after being turned into yarn, forwarded thence to a third port of the Empire, to be woven into cloth and re-shipped.

The amount of revenue derived from the duty is so inconsiderable, that its further maintenance does not appear to be either necessary or justifiable.

Verghi.—1. There is no complete or well regulated system of land registry in existence. Some years ago a cadastre was instituted, and its operations all over the country have been continued to this day; but, although the titles of estates and names of proprietors, with a rough estimate of the extent and value of each property, are therein recorded, it is very incomplete and inaccurate, the respective values of the real estates being, generally speaking, greatly underrated.

2. The register is from time to time revised. The last revision took place about the year 1870.

3. According to law the verghi taxes ought to be levied in accordance with the means and capacities of the inhabitants.

As a general rule, however, the assessment takes place in an arbitrary and unfair manner. The rich are not unfrequently favoured at the expense of the poor.

The amount of verghi to be raised in each vilayet is fixed at Constantinople, the Defterdar, or chief collector of revenue in the vilayet being entrusted with its proportional assessment among the sandjaks of which that vilayet is composed. The Mohassebejis, Sandek, Eminis, and Ayans, who represent the Defterdar in the sandjaks, cazas, and mohallas, are, in their turn, responsible to their immediate Chiefs for the returns of their respective districts, parishes, and villages.

4. Everybody knows the amount at which he is assessed.

5. Whenever any payment is effected on account of verghi a receipt or acquittance is always given.

6. Nobody can be called upon to refund any sum once paid in respect of this tax.

7. The verghi is collected in the spring of the year. Autumn would be a more convenient season for its collection, as the rural population is naturally better able to support the charge after the crops have been harvested. In spring the poor man requires all his money for the purposes of agriculture, or for the operations of his industrial pursuits or calling, and is often obliged to raise the funds necessary for payment of the verghi by borrowing at an exorbitant rate of interest.

8. Persons have not the option of paying the taxes direct into the local public Treasury. In those cazas, however, where there is no regular town, the sums collected by the Ayans, or Elders of villages, are remitted to the Sandek Emini through the channel of the Mudir, or Governor of the district.

9. The measure usually resorted to for enforcing payment of the tax by defaulters is imprisonment. Sometimes, but only in extreme cases, the authorities proceed also to a forced sale of real property, cattle, or household effects.

10. The Moukhtars in the towns and Ayans in the villages are selected by the inhabitants, subject to confirmation by the Governor or chief authority of the locality. The Mohassebejis and Sandek Eminis, as well as the Defterdar, receive their appointments direct from the supreme Government.

11. The Moukhtars, or collecting agents, who are appointed by the inhabitants, are not remunerated, and give no security.

12. The whole of the amount collected, after deduction therefrom of the salaries of the Defterdar and other revenue officials, and the unavoidable costs of collection, is supposed to reach the public Treasury. No other deductions are authorized.

13. The sums collected are, from time to time, compared by the Defterdars and Mohassebejis with the amount of the Budget estimate. Beyond this, and except at the time of the monthly remittances, when the statements of accounts are drawn up in triplicate, and one copy of them is furnished to the Ministry of Finance at Constantinople and another to the Governor-General of the vilayet, there is apparently no control exercised at the head-quarters of the vilayet over the progress of the collection of the tax.

Dimes.—1. Tithes are paid, in kind, on wheat, barley, maize, sesame, olives, cotton, vallonea, madder-root, liquorice, and such other articles of agricultural produce or commercial importance.

On raisins, however, figs, grapes, onions, and all other kinds of fruits or vegetables, fresh or dry, they are paid in money. The rate is always 10 per cent. nominally; but, as generally happens in the case of cotton when the crops, from being estimated before they are cut or gathered, are not unfrequently overrated, it sometimes amounts to 12 or 15 per cent., or even more.

2. There is no further authorized claim to which the cultivator is liable in connection with the tithe.

3. The claim of the State is always based on the actual produce of the year.

4. As a general rule, the receivers of the dimes, or their agents, deal directly with each individual cultivator. Sometimes, though rarely, they collect the tithes of a village district ("timar") by arrangement with a deputation chosen by the inhabitants of that village from among the largest proprietors.

There is no common liability on the part of the cultivators for the amount assessed on their village.

5. In case of loss or failure of crops, the State suffers proportionally with the cultivator, the tithe of each year being based on the actual yield of that year.

6. In this particular vilayet the tithes of districts containing four or five villages are generally farmed together. Sometimes those of a single village are engaged for separately, and this appears to be the custom in all other parts of Asia Minor.

7. There is no preference shown to offers made by influential residents.

8. Associations of resident cultivators have no representative character whereby they may claim to be dealt with otherwise than all other cultivators.

9. Tithe-farmers must be persons of substance. They are furthermore required to furnish good security for the fulfilment of their engagements. Sometimes, however, proper attention is not paid by Government officials to these requirements, and the State suffers accordingly.

10. The security for the performance of their engagements consists in the presentation of two persons of ample means as guarantors to that effect.

I may here perhaps add, as a circumstance of occasional occurrence, that the Government officials will sometimes cancel a sale of tithes, when, owing to some rise in the price of grain or other cause, a larger profit than usual is likely to accrue therefrom. When, on the other hand, the transaction does not promise to be a profitable one to the tithe-farmer, his contract with the Government is always enforced.

11. Beyond his claim to the Government share of the current season's crops, the farmer does not acquire any right whatever over cultivators.

12. The farmers are obliged to make their payments in money, and in six monthly instalments, beginning on the 1st September.

13. The farmer can sell or sub-let his contract, but it is not usual to allude therein to his right to do so, as he and his guarantors are alone held responsible for its non-execution.

14. Sub-letting contracts is practised only to a limited extent.

15. Sub-lessees acquire all the rights of the principal farmers.

To substitute for the dimes a land-tax, on the conditions specified by Mr. Harrison, would undoubtedly tend to the advantage of the general interests of the country; but the scheme, although excellent, appears, under existing circumstances, to be scarcely practicable.

(1.) The formation of the requisite cadastre will, I imagine, be a work of some years, and involve, at the same time, a very considerable outlay of public money.

(2.) The condition and general circumstances of the several vilayets differ so materially one from the other, that a special rate of assessment will be necessary for each sandjak, and perhaps also for each separate caza. Owing to the varying facilities of transport in the provinces, considerable differences are met with in the market values of agricultural produce. At Kutaya, Sivas, and other districts of the interior, for instance, the price of wheat is scarcely one-fifth of what it is on the sea-coast.

(3.) The annual registry of all lands brought into cultivation would be possible only after the completion of the cadastre.

(4.) It would not be difficult to arrange for the punctual payment of the sums assessed. Cultivators rarely dispose of the entire produce of their crops immediately after harvest.

The principal obstacle to the execution of the proposed scheme appears to consist in the difficulties of land communication. Except in the neighbourhood of the railways, the transport of produce from one district of the interior to another is effected on a very limited scale. The supplies necessary for the wants of the inland towns are for the most part found in their immediate vicinity, while, owing to the primitive system under which the business operations of those districts are effected, a system which enables the husbandman to take what he requires from the merchant or travelling

hawker and repay in kind, a metallic currency may be said barely to exist there.

In such districts it will be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to collect a money-tax.

Along the sea-coast, and wherever there is easy communication with the sea-coast, the projected measure may perhaps be carried into execution, without much difficulty, provided of course that a complete and accurate cadastre is first drawn up.

In the absence, however, of such a cadastre, another course of procedure suggests itself. It is that of taxing the cultivators with a sum representing the average annual amount of the tithes they have paid in the last five or ten years, leaving them to distribute the tax among themselves according to the means and capacities of each. Some difficulty would probably be experienced in the exercise of due control over the advancing industry of the country, and more especially as regards the progressive increase of the land brought under cultivation; but there is no reason why this control should not be made sufficiently efficacious.

Military Exemption.—The present system of assessing the tax through the spiritual heads of communities has the advantage of exonerating the poor at the expense of the rich. Almost the whole of the tax is paid by the wealthy members of the Christian and Hebrew communities.

Judging from the almost total absence of complaints against the hardships of the conscription, such as are common in Spain and other countries where the whole business of that institution is vested in the military or lay authorities of the Government, and in view also of the secondary character of the impost as compared with other sources of Imperial revenue, I do not think any radical change, or considerable interference with existing arrangements, is desirable.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Smyrna, March 8, 1879.

No. 585.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 17, 1879.

I LEARN from Baron Orczy that Colonel Ripp, the Austrian member of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission, is instructed to hold himself in readiness to proceed at once to Constantinople, the Italian Commissioner being supposed to be already on his way there.

The Commission, before separating last year, had fixed the 15th April for reassembling, but though Baron Ripp informs me that the snow on the Balkans is seldom by that date so much melted as to allow the marking out of the frontier to be carried on, it is considered desirable that the Commission should be on the spot so as to commence their operations at the earliest practicable moment.

I understand that Colonel Scherff, the German Commissioner, who gave such steady support to Colonel Home upon the Commission last year, will not again be a member of it.

His views respecting the proper line of frontier to adopt near Silistria were so decided, that if his Government propose to support the Russian side of the question they could hardly do otherwise than replace him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 586.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 160. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 19, 1879.

I FOUND Count Andrassy yesterday better satisfied than he had ever before been with the prospect of bringing the negotiation with the Porte respecting the Novi-Bazar district to a favourable conclusion.

While on the one side the Porte seems no longer to insist upon introducing the word "temporary" into the Convention, his Excellency, on the other hand, appeared to have made a considerable concession, for I understood him to be ready to intimate the places to which it is proposed to send Austrian garrisons, with a proviso that, if events shall make it advisable, garrisons may likewise at a future period be sent to Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza, or other places in the *enclave*, upon the invitation or with the concurrence of the Sultan's Government.

Should this form of agreement be adopted, it might be regarded by the Porte as a sufficient guarantee that the right of garrison given by the Treaty of Berlin would not be used for the purpose of Austrian extension towards Salonica, but would, on the contrary, be, as Count Andrassy has always declared it to have been intended, an effectual check upon hostile designs by Servia or Montenegro.

I endeavoured to confirm Count Andrassy in a disposition to be satisfied with the Convention in the form he had alluded to, by pointing out that it was not unnatural for the Porte to entertain a doubt of the ultimate designs of this country, when the conviction that he was steadily preparing the way for the acquisition of Salonica was very general throughout Europe, where the question did not touch the public interests as closely as it did those of the Sultan, to whose distrust, rather than that of his Ministers, the difficulties in regard to the Convention were owing.

His Excellency, who had recently complained so bitterly to Mr. Monson of Caratheodory Pasha's conduct in this business, said that he had now come to the conclusion that what I had just said was true, for his last reports from Count Zichy showed that it was the Sultan, and not the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who caused the difficulty. He could not deny that everything had been done to inspire His Majesty with distrust; that the Russians had been indefatigable in working in that direction, and that they had been most efficiently seconded by the opposition parties in the Austrian and Hungarian Parliaments.

He had, therefore, in the most public and emphatic manner, denied the project attributed to him, but if there were people who refused to believe his word, let them examine the question and say whether it was possible for any statesman who had the good of his country at heart to nourish the design, when he could not but be aware that the weakness of the Empire consisted in the want of homogeneity of the different elements of which it is already composed.

Upon my inquiring whether he would hold the same language in the event of the formation of a Bulgaria extending to the Ægean, he replied that if such a thing were to happen, which would imply the breaking up of the Turkish Empire in Europe, he would then speak in a precisely contrary sense, and declare the acquisition of Salonica by Austria to be a necessary consequence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 587.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 161. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 19, 1879.

I AM informed that the Austrian military authorities have represented the difficulties of the ground in the *enclave* to be such that even an unopposed advance towards Novi-Bazar could not be made except with extreme difficulty and at a vast expense, and would scarcely be practicable at all in the face of serious resistance.

Count Andrassy himself let drop to me the other day the probably unguarded remark that the road for an Austrian force to Novi-Bazar must be through Servia.

That Principality might be expected to refuse its consent to such a step, and the Austrian Government are not likely, unless in a case of extreme urgency, to make a proposal so calculated to lead to complications and dangers; but the conviction that has been arrived at of the material difficulties in the way of advance through the *enclave* must render them the more desirous of settling the question about the garrisons in an amicable manner with the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 588.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 19, 1879.*

M. ZUKITCH, the newly-appointed Servian Minister at this Court, died here yesterday.

He was a man of moderate and sensible opinions, and his loss will be much regretted by the Austro-Hungarian Government, who have various questions requiring some delicacy of handling to treat with the Government of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 589.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 19, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has been informed that M. Gueshoff has already left on the mission to the European Courts mentioned to your Lordship by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

I said that as your Lordship had already intimated that you would decline to receive him, or any one professing to represent a party in East Roumelia, I hoped he would follow the same course.

His Excellency replied that he would certainly not receive him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 590.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 18, 1879.*

IN an interview I had with M. Depretis this morning, his Excellency informed me, in reply to an inquiry I made, that Colonel Orero, the Italian Delegate to the Bulgarian Frontier Commission, had been directed to return to his post, that he had either left Rome for this purpose, or would do so immediately; and in answer to a further inquiry of mine as to whether his Excellency could acquaint me with the general sense of his instructions, M. Depretis informed me that he had been directed to do all that depended upon him to hasten the labours of the Commission; that the Italian Government were of opinion that the Commission should pursue their task to its completion; and in the event of disagreement upon any points not to allow them to interrupt its work, but to continue its operations, leaving the contested points for subsequent decision, which, in the opinion of the Italian Government, ought to be according to the votes of the majority. This is in conformity with what I reported as having heard respecting the reply of the Italian Government to the Russian Circular, as stated in my despatch No. 92 of the 10th instant.

M. Depretis took this opportunity of referring to another of the Russian Circulars in regard to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria. He said that the point near Silistria, where the bridge was to be constructed, had been so clearly indicated, that, in his opinion, no further discussion of the question was admissible.

The pretensions of Russia he considered unsustainable. Whether the road leading to the bridge should pass inside or outside of Arab-Tabia was, in his opinion, a purely technical question, which must be decided by specialists on the spot. His Excellency added that, as regards the Bulgarian frontier along the line of the Danube, also the subject of one of the Russian Circulars, the Italian Government, while being of opinion that the question should be settled according to usual international practice in such cases, which they believe to be that the thalweg should be the frontier, had made

certain reserves, for instance, that the *status quo* should be maintained in regard to any islands which might be situated in mid-stream.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 591.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 18, 1879.*

I TOOK an opportunity of asking M. Depretis, in the course of a conversation I had with him to-day, if he had ever considered the point as to whether, according to the Treaty of Berlin, the Russians were bound to have completed the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria by the nine months after the exchange of the ratifications, namely, on the 4th May next, or simply to commence the evacuation on that day.

M. Depretis replied that this was the first time his attention had been called to this question, and therefore, of course, he could not pronounce a positive opinion without examining the Treaty, which he would do immediately; but, speaking offhand from his recollection of the terms of the Treaty, he must say that he was inclined to think that the evacuation should be completed by the date referred to, otherwise the provinces would practically remain in the occupation of the Russians after the expiration of the nine months from the exchange of the ratifications, which was certainly not in accordance with the intentions of the Congress.

Passing from this particular question to the general one of the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, M. Depretis said he could not conceal that the impression made upon his mind by the recent Russian Circulars, and other circumstances, was that the Russian Government were laying the groundwork for discussions and difficulties with the view of retarding the accomplishment of their obligations. On the other hand, he was bound to say that the declarations of Prince Gortchacow and M. de Giers, of the intention of Russia faithfully to adhere to and carry out the stipulations of the Treaty, were of the most distinct and positive kind, so much so that, in sending instructions to M. Vernoni, the Italian Delegate on the Roumelian Commission, he had informed him of these declarations, and stated that if the Russian Agents were acting in a contrary sense he might be sure they were disobeying the wishes and orders of their Government.

The Treaty of Berlin, M. Depretis said, was for him the law book of Europe, and it must be fulfilled both in letter and in spirit in all particulars. If the slightest departure from it were admitted, the whole would fall to pieces, we should be landed in the unknown, we should drift back to the Treaty of San Stefano, or at all events into the most serious complications.

It was the interest of Italy, his Excellency continued, that peace should be established in the East, and that Turkey should be made as strong as it was possible for her to be under existing circumstances. Any infraction of the Treaty of Berlin would, in his opinion, lead sooner or later to dismemberment of Turkey, and this would be prejudicial in the extreme to the interests of Italy.

I interrupted his Excellency by saying that I thought I perceived in this last observation an indication of a fear of an extension of Austrian power to the Ægean; and if this was so, I might say, by way of consoling him, that I had seen in a recent despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, in which reference was made to this project being attributed to Count Andrassy, that Sir Henry Elliot had expressed his disbelief in his Excellency entertaining any such purpose. On the contrary, it was the opinion of Sir Henry Elliot that Count Andrassy wished to maintain the Turkish Empire as long as possible in the position assigned to it by the Treaty of Berlin, and to strengthen the Sultan's authority over the territory left him in Europe. (See Sir H. Elliot's No. 100, Confidential, print February 23-24, p. 28.)

M. Depretis replied that Count Andrassy had at first been opposed to the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but had been led into it. At all events, his Excellency continued, the Treaty of Berlin is now our only guide, and England, his Excellency said, ought to take the lead in insisting upon its strict fulfilment.

I said I believed no one had the smallest doubt as to the intentions of Her

Majesty's Government in this respect, but, if England takes the lead, I inquired, will the others follow?

M. Depretis' reply was, "You may count upon Italy 'en première ligne' for doing so."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 592.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Rome, March* 18, 1879.

IN reply to an inquiry I made of M. Depretis to-day as to whether he had received any communication from the French Government with the view of inducing the Italian Government to make a representation at Constantinople respecting the Greco-Turkish frontier negotiations, his Excellency informed me that he had received a communication from the French Government, and that he had replied that, before any offer of mediation could be made to the Powers interested, it was desirable that the French Government should come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government as to its basis.

The Italian Government, his Excellency continued, having associated itself with that of France in the proposal at the Congress for a rectification of the Greek frontier, was, of course, still desirous of acting with that Government, but, at the same time, the Italian Government was bound to take into account the reports of its Agent on the spot, and these reports certainly went to show that the territory in Epirus, proposed to be ceded in the Congress, could not be made over to Greece without incurring the risk of resistance on the part of the population.

On the other hand, M. Depretis said, the line proposed by Turkey was admitted on all hands to be insufficient, and he had already directed Count Corti to advise the Porte to put forward something more acceptable.

I told M. Depretis that your Lordship had informed both the French and Greek Governments that Her Majesty's Government could not advise the cession of Janina, and his Excellency stated that he had spoken in the same sense to the French Ambassador, who, I may mention, had just left his room.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 593.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 319.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 19, 1879.

YOUR Lordship was so good as to repeat to me yesterday three telegrams from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, all dated the 16th instant, and all relating to obstructions thrown by the French Commissioners in the way of the speedy progress of the proceedings of the Commission for Eastern Roumelia.

I spoke this afternoon to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs of the importance of completing the "Statute" for Eastern Roumelia as soon as possible, and of the short time which remained before the date fixed for the evacuation of that province by the Russians, and for the introduction into it of the institutions under which it was in future to be governed under the sovereignty of the Sultan.

M. Waddington expressed entire agreement with what I had said; and I then suggested to him to send by telegraph a distinct instruction to the French Commissioner to be expeditious.

M. Waddington seemed disposed to send the instruction, although he did not positively promise to do so.

I made no allusion to the telegraphic intelligence your Lordship had sent me from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, nor did I in any way give M. Waddington to understand that I had been led to speak to him by complaints made by Sir H. Drummond Wolff with respect to his colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 594.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 20, 1879.

M. WADDINGTON told me this evening that Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, had come to him the evening before with a formal proposal from the Russian Government, that on the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian army, that province should be occupied by a force composed of the troops of the European Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Waddington had, he told me, said to Prince Orloff, in reply, that he had no objection in principle to the proposed mixed occupation, but that he could not hold out any hope that France would take part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 595.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 19 *Mars*, 1879.

SUITE à mon télégramme d'hier.

Les dernières concessions de la Sublime Porte n'ayant pas satisfait les exigences de la Grèce, les Commissaires Hellènes ont quitté Preveza. D'après nos renseignements, le Gouvernement Hellénique se propose d'adresser une Note Circulaire à ses Représentants à l'étranger pour faire appel à la médiation des Puissances.

No. 596.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 18 *Mars*, 1879.

MOUKHTAR PACHA vient de recevoir de nouvelles instructions conçues dans les termes les plus larges. Elles indiquent la dernière limite des concessions que le Gouvernement Impérial puisse faire dans l'intérêt du maintien de ses bonnes relations avec la Grèce et par déférence pour les vœux exprimés par les Puissances. Voici en quoi consiste le tracé que nous proposons: "Il partira des ruines de Thèbes dans le golfe de Volo, y compris la plaine de Pharsale "Tchadalja," suivra Gundouklou et Tchanli jusqu'à Soubrundja, Couzgoundar, passera par Soubroundjalisaludra, Makrikoris, Megalarakorio, et Magoula, se dirigera par les crêtes de Mouzaki, de Chametrovo et de Demi, ainsi que de Nicolitza, et puis dans une ligne droite il descendra à Pramandat; de là il longera le cours d'Arta et laissera Péta à la Grèce pour aboutir au point extrême de la frontière actuelle de la Grèce sur le golfe d'Arta. Il est bien entendu que la nouvelle frontière tiendra compte des exigences strictement locales." Ce tracé, qui constitue, je le répète, le maximum de nos concessions, nous paraît fait pour donner ample satisfaction aux exigences de la situation. Il a, en outre, l'avantage de prévenir l'opposition des Albanais et de concilier les considérations découlant des vœux exprimés au sein du Congrès de Berlin en faveur de la Grèce avec la nécessité de ne pas nous laisser privés complétement du golfe de Volo.

Je vous prie d'en entretenir le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité. Les Cabinets apprécieront, nous aimons à l'espérer, les raisons majeures qui nous empêchent d'aller plus loin dans la voie des concessions, et emploieront leur influence

à Athènes en vue de nous ménager une solution répondant à l'esprit de conciliation qui, dès le début, nous a animé dans cette question.

No. 597.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Mars*, 1879.

LA situation de la population Musulmane dans la Roumélie Orientale n'avait jamais cessé d'être précaire et pleine de dangers et de difficultés; mais on avait lieu d'espérer qu'avec le temps l'esprit d'exclusivisme et d'hostilité qui anime les Bulgares ferait place à des sentiments plus justes et plus humains. Cet espoir a été déçu, et c'est avec la plus vive douleur que la Sublime Porte se trouve obligée de reconnaître que le sort des habitants Musulmans de la Roumélie Orientale est devenu intolérable. Dans presque toutes les parties de la province et notamment à Cara Bounar, à Yamboli, et à Yéni-Zaghra, ils sont en butte à des actes constants d'oppression et de violence de la part de leurs compatriotes Bulgares. Ces derniers paraissent poursuivre un système d'extermination que les démarches réitérées de nos autorités n'ont pu faire cesser. Aussi les victimes ont elles pris en désespoir de cause le parti de quitter en masse leurs foyers et de chercher leur salut dans l'expatriation. Le mouvement d'émigration est considérable. La ville d'Andrinople a déjà reçu dans ses murs une grande quantité d'émigrés, et leur nombre s'accroissant de jour en jour va devenir une cause de graves embarras pour nos autorités nouvellement installées à Andrinople.

Je vous prie de signaler cette situation à l'attention sérieuse du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité. Nous faisons appel aux sentiments d'humanité des Puissances pour délivrer des populations Musulmanes de la Roumélie Orientale des persécutions auxquelles elles se voient en butte et leur assurer la sécurité pour leurs personnes et pour leurs biens. Vous ne manquerez pas de constater que le Traité de Berlin, conforme en cela aux principes les plus élémentaires de la justice, a voulu que toutes les parties de la population de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de race ni de religion, fussent traitées sur le pied de la plus parfaite égalité. Il n'est donc point possible que les Puissances Signataires de ce Traité acceptent qu'une certaine classe d'habitants travaille ouvertement à la suppression ou à l'exclusion systématique d'une autre classe qui a les mêmes droits et qui doit être entourée de la même protection.

No. 598.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 22.)

Admiralty, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that telegraphic orders were on that day given to Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby to proceed from Gallipoli to Constantinople, with such officers of his squadron as could be spared, for the purpose of dining with His Majesty the Sultan; and afterwards to proceed with the squadron to Besika Bay.

2. Copy of a telegram reporting the arrival of the fleet at the latter place has this day been forwarded to you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 599.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 239.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

PORTE will hold out on the subject of treatment of Bosnians and Herzegovinians out of those provinces. There are good reasons for its doing so. The precedent of England with regard to natives of Cyprus is in their favour.

The Mahommedan law is recognized in the provinces. If the natives were

protected in Turkey they could not appeal to their own laws, as Austrian Consular Courts are ruled by Austrian procedure. Persons of high rank in the service of the Porte and numberless women in the harems would come under Austrian jurisdiction. It would create an anomaly and a confusion which the Porte cannot admit. All other points are on a fair way to settlement.

No. 600.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No 241.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Kirby Green:—

"The Porte now informs me that it is not anxious to have a Consul at Podgoritza, but that it does desire to have there an unofficial agent, and that it hopes Osman Bey may be allowed to return.

"I await instructions from Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs before informing Porte that Montenegro wishes to be represented by Russia."

No. 601.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 242.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul at Adrianople, dated yesterday:—

"Have myself made investigations regarding massacres [? reported] to authorities as having occurred in three Turkish villages near Mustapha Pasha. Am satisfied only part of the crimes have been committed such as are prevalent in Eastern Roumelia."

(Sent to Wolff.)

No. 602.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1879.

M. DE GIERS said to me to-day that he attached more importance to the Commission remaining in Eastern Roumelia than to the joint occupation, which I do not think either he or Prince Gortchacow is enamoured with.

His scheme implies the consent of the Commission before the Turkish troops could be called in to control an emergency.

I asked him if he meant the unanimous consent, because otherwise, as in the case of Rustem Pasha, the opposition of the Russian Commissioner would be sufficient to paralyze both Commission and the Governor-General.

If the scheme of a mixed occupation is found impracticable, might it not be possible to fall back upon some modification of this other idea with the majority principle substituted for unanimity? The difficulty is to gauge importance of what falls from M. de Giers.

No. 603.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. .)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 21, 1879.

THE Insurrectionary Committee has been restarted. Every Bulgarian peasant family in the province has been ordered to supply ten okes of biscuits for the outbreak. 70,000 caps have been ordered at Vienna for the Gymnastic Societies.

Money is being collected for insurrectionary purposes, and [group wrong] ladies are collecting subscriptions for a national banner.

Russian officers go spreading report of prolongation of occupation, and say that General Ignatieff is negotiating this at Paris.

Our project, including second reading, will, in all probability, be finally completed next week.

If any measures are contemplated to appease agitation they should be announced shortly, as the excitement is getting beyond control.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 604.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 21, 1879.*

A LETTER from General Stolipine informs me that he has no power to interfere with sentence on Osman Bey; he says nothing can be done except by the pardon of the Emperor. The poor man is a cripple, and has a large family dependent on him for support. Urgently request that necessary steps may be taken, as the time is short.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin and Mr. Malet.)

No. 605.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, March 21, 1879.*

ARRIVED last night. Assembly begins the consideration of Organic law to-morrow; proceedings will be, it is thought, orderly.

I have communicated to Russian Commissary my support of Turkish objections to paragraphs 1, 2, and 16. He disavows responsibility, and refers to St. Petersburgh, but promises that he will try to have paragraphs 1 and 2 omitted from the programme.

M. Geshoff proceeds for Europe to-morrow, exclusively on account of Roumelia. He goes to Paris but will not visit (*sic*).

No. 606.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 21, 1879.*

GREEK Commissioners have returned to Athens from Prevesa. It was decided at the Council held yesterday to appeal to Great Powers for their mediation. It is believed that Circular will be dispatched by post to-morrow.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 607.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 22, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador communicated last night a Circular to the German Government suggesting mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia for a short limited period.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that Germany could take no part in it, but would not object to other Powers doing so.

No. 608.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

I HAVE informed Count Andrassy that General Hamley will go next week to Constantinople. He will give similar orders to Austrian Commissioner.

No. 609.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 22, 1879, 1·50 P.M.*

EMPEROR and Count Andrassy both spoke to me yesterday of their obligations to your Lordship in reference to Convention with the Porte, the prospect of success being, they say, entirely due to good offices of Her Majesty's Government.

Count Andrassy spoke to me about third point alluded to in Mr. Malet's telegram, received from your Lordship last night, regarding the treatment of the Bosnians and Herzegovinians.

His object, which is, he says, a point of honour, is to ensure that none are made to suffer in Turkey for having shown themselves friendly to Austria, and as this cannot well be done by the Convention, he proposes to reserve question for separate agreement.

No. 610.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 22, 1879, 12·50 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs admitted to me yesterday that the Treaty [*sic*] were not as clear as he had imagined against an hereditary Prince for Bulgaria.

He said, however, that he thought it undesirable for the Organic Statute to declare him hereditary before election, and that it would be better to leave question open till after the election, because hereditary principle could be afterwards adopted if thought advisable.

I had not then received your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, which I have just sent to him.

His opinion on the subject did not seem matured.

No. 611.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 22, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the day before yesterday the proposal as to mixed occupation, and pressed for speedy answer. M. Depretis replied that he must reserve giving one until after consulting the Cabinet, but that he would not conceal that he considered the proposed measure as most grave; that he was opposed to any intervention, and to any departure from the Treaty of Berlin.

The communication of the Russian Government has made the deepest impression upon M. Depretis. He characterizes it to me as the first step towards the tearing up of the Treaty. I acquainted him with the conditions which your Lordship considers indispensable, as stated in your telegram of yesterday to Lord Dufferin. He said that he did not believe Turkey would ever assent, or that any other Power but Austria and Russia would consent to furnish the troops, in which case he should consider it the commencement of dismemberment.

He wishes to act in agreement with Her Majesty's Government, and on my asking him unofficially whether Italy would not send a contingent, he replied that if the proposal to do so came from Her Majesty's Government, and Turkey consented, he would take the matter into serious consideration, especially if a certain number of English troops were sent likewise. He spoke, however, of financial difficulties, so that if such a proposal is made I think we ought, with a view to a better chance of success, to make the thing easy, either by offering transport or otherwise.

No. 612.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 22, 1879.*

SINCE my telegram No. 23 of to-day I have met Count Tornielli, who states as follows:—

"If England refuses Russian proposal, and insists upon strict adherence to the Treaty, Italy will do so likewise. If, on the contrary, Her Majesty's Government consent to a mixed occupation, the Italian Government will also agree, and, in this case, desire to come to a formal understanding with Her Majesty's Government as to the means to be employed by both Governments for giving effect to their resolutions. He added that instructions had been sent to General Menabrea to state this clearly to your Lordship."

No. 613.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinje, March 22, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet:—

"Utterly useless to propose to Montenegro return to Podgoritza of officer who was lately Military and Civil Governor of the district. Besides, through asserted action of Turks, nearly all the Mahommedans have now withdrawn from the place.

"I recommend most strongly that the Porte should break loose from the intrigues and bugbears of Albanian authorities. I am sure most friendly intercourse will ensue as soon as Turkish Representative is established here."

No. 614.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March 22, 1879.*

RESOLUTION amending Article 7 of Constitution was read a second time in both Chambers on Wednesday last, and was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies the same day by 64 against 12. In the Senate, however, all the elements of opposition combined to interpose by introducing vote of want of confidence. This, after two days' discussion, was rejected to-day by 32 votes against 20, when the constitutional second reading was passed.

No. 615.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 173. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY has sent me a message requesting me to urge at Vienna acceptance of proposal that Bosnians outside Bosnia should be Turkish subjects. His name, of course, must not be mentioned.

Your Excellency knows more of the subject than I do, but if you approve I think you might speak to Count Andrassy in this sense. The working of the Capitulations in Turkey is embarrassing enough now, but to place Mahommedans under the system of foreign protection would create great confusion. The Treaty of Berlin hardly justifies Bosnians being treated as having lost their nationality.

No. 616.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1879, 3·55 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 234 of the 20th instant, express to the Grand Vizier satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the removal of the Vali of Aleppo.

No. 617.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1879, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 231 of the 20th instant.

You had better not offer any advice to the Porte on the Montenegrin proposition. I do not understand what advantage the Porte would obtain from it.

No. 618.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 174. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 22, 1879.*

I HAVE learnt with satisfaction from your Excellency's telegram of to-day (No. 49) that the Emperor and Count Andrassy have expressed to you their acknowledgment of the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to induce the Porte to bring to a conclusion its negotiations with Austria.

The principal difficulty seems now to lie in the settlement of the question of the provision, for which the Porte contends, as to the treatment as Ottoman subjects of inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina when outside those provinces.

The Porte attaches great importance to the insertion of this provision in the Convention, while Count Andrassy thinks that it should form the subject of a separate understanding, holding it to be a point of honour that no inhabitants of the provinces should be made to suffer in Turkey for having shown friendliness to Austria, and considering that this object cannot be secured by means of the Convention.

I have informed your Excellency by telegraph, most confidentially, that Count Zichy has privately sent me a message, requesting me to urge Count Andrassy to accept the Turkish proposal; you will be the best judge whether you can act on this suggestion with propriety, and with a probability of success; if you think that you can do so I am ready to authorize it, but you will of course understand that Count Zichy's name must not be mentioned.

It appears to me that there is already sufficient embarrassment in working the capitulations in Turkey; and that the embarrassment would be increased and much confusion created if Mahommedan inhabitants of the occupied provinces were to be, whilst in Turkey, placed under foreign protection; while their being so placed would seem to imply the loss of their Turkish nationality, which is hardly contemplated by the XXVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 619.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 394.)

Foreign Office, March 22, 1879.

Sir,

YOU will have learnt from a telegram which I have sent you to-day in reply to yours of the 20th instant, marked No. 231, that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is undesirable that you should offer any advice to the Porte with regard to the proposal of the Prince of Montenegro, that he should be represented at Constantinople by the Russian Ambassador there, as they are unable to see what advantage would accrue to the Porte from such an arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 620.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 396.)

Foreign Office, March 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE instructed you this day, in a telegram which I have addressed to you in reply to yours of the 20th instant, marked No. 234, to express to the Grand Vizier the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that Kiamil Pasha has been removed from his post as Vali of the district of Aleppo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 621.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

Foreign Office, March 22, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you, for the information of Secretary Colonel Stanley, that a communication has been received from Major-General Hamley, of which a copy is inclosed, recommending that four other officers, in addition to Major Ardagh, shall be appointed as members of his staff on the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, viz.:—

Captain S. Anderson, C.M.G., R.E.; Captain D. F. Jones, R.A.; Lieutenant W. H. Hare, R.E.; Captain Everett, 33rd Regiment.

General Hamley also states that he shall require the services of two sappers, and he suggests that it would be advisable that an Assistant-Surgeon should be nominated to accompany the party.

It is assumed by General Hamley that the pay of these officers and of the Assistant-Surgeon will be at the rate of 450*l.* a-year, with travelling expenses, and one guinea per day personal allowance, exclusive of regimental pay.

General Hamley further recommends that an outfit allowance of 25*l.* shall be granted to each of these newly-appointed officers.

It will be borne in mind that the staff of the late Colonel Home consisted of four officers; of these Major Fife and Major Murray are no longer available, while Lieutenant Chermside is still employed on the service mentioned in my Confidential letter of the 8th February last, nor does it seem probable that he will have completed it for some time to come.

The staff which General Hamley proposes to take with him will then consist of one officer and an Assistant-Surgeon in excess of Colonel Home's staff.

I am now to request that, in laying this letter before Secretary Colonel Stanley, you will move him to inform Lord Salisbury, at his earliest convenience, whether he concurs in the nomination of the officers specified by General Hamley, and whether he considers it desirable that an Assistant-Surgeon should also be added to the party, and I am to state that upon receiving his reply the necessary recommendation will be at once made to the Board of Treasury for their sanction to these appointments.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 622.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, March 22, 1879.

A NEW Chief of the Russian Red Cross, who has recently arrived, told me yesterday that he was preparing to stay here till the 3rd August, as the army would not finally evacuate till that date. Apparently no preparations have yet been made for evacuation beyond sale of some horses.

M. Ring has introduced into his Chapter of Public Worship a clause giving to the Governor-General the approval of the appointment of Bishops. Austrian Commissioner and myself have opposed it, and I have proposed a counter resolution in the sense already pointed out. Nothing is yet settled.

The Commissioners to-day at a private meeting, at which Turks were not present, decided that the Governor-General's salary should not be more than 80,000 fr. a-year. I tried to get more, but all the Commissioners were decidedly against me, saying that in their own countries similar functions were less well paid. If [as the ?] effect of this the Turks are obliged to make it up to a larger sum this may be advantageous.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 623.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, March 22, 1879.

AT sitting to-day Governor-General's salary was raised to 4,000*l.* Turkish. I introduced an amendment by which sects not already established should have liberty of worship. Italian Commissioner introduced an amendment by which Bulgarian Bishops could receive investiture either by the Sultan or by the Governor-General by delegation in his name.

Practically only the [?] Chapter and the Bye-laws of the Gendarmerie and Militia remain to be passed. They will only take about a [?].

Financial Agents have been driven away from some districts in the Government of Philippopolis.

Schmidt has resigned on the ground that the opposition of authorities and functionaries makes his work impossible. An extraordinary sitting on Monday on this point.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 624.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 243.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 22, 1879.

IN consequence of the Decree mentioned in my telegram No. 235, the paper currency is now refused in all the shops. A good many bakers have closed, causing those open to be much beset. Strong patrols are about. I hear of no disorders. Rate of currency 590 [paper?] piastres to 100 gold.

No. 625.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 245.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 23, 1879.

CONSUL reports from Adrianople, under date of 20th instant, that the Christian emigration appears to be at an end, notwithstanding strenuous efforts of the Russians to encourage it. He estimates it at 4,500 by rail and less by road, not counting the district of Kirk-Kilissé, about which he is ignorant.

No. 626.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 23, 1879.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF handed me the following Memorandum, and begged me to telegraph it to your Lordship:—

"The two reservations of Lord Salisbury will occasion the failure of the project of joint occupation and endanger the peace of Europe. The Marquis can easily satisfy himself that the Turkish uniform cannot show itself without occasioning collisions. The presence of European contingents ought to reassure the Sultan as to his right of possession of Roumelia. I would prefer proposition to the Emperor, in case Lord Salisbury can obtain co-operation of Italy or of France, and leave in Roumelia the English, Austrian, French, or Italian contingents, and to withdraw our own to the north of the Balkan line to prevent incursion of revolutionary bands from Bulgaria. The Turks to remain along the southern frontier, but without entering into the province. If, in order to obtain consent of the Porte, Lord Salisbury preferred to call contingent escorts we would offer no opposition.

"Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury have given me their confidence: let them give me credit when I affirm that the presence of European contingents without the Turks is the only way to maintain order and save the Treaty of Berlin."

Count Schouvaloff guaranteed that his Government would admit majority principle in the Commission.

I have seen M. de Giers since foregoing was communicated. He allows personally that the Turkish Government must be and can be admitted to Balkan. He is evidently much alarmed less mixed occupation should leave Austria in possession, and most anxious for Italian or French contingent. I think that if you accepted Count Schouvaloff's proposition, on condition of Balkan garrison being located, during the first three or six months of the mixed occupation—the foreign contingents to be at the orders of the Governor-General in Council, *i.e.*, with majority of the Commission—an arrangement might be arrived at.

M. de Giers very averse to Count Schouvaloff's idea of retiring Russian troops beyond the Balkan.

I have told them all you would not consent to any arrangement excluding Balkan garrison even temporarily.

No. 627.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 23, 1879.

M. GIERS telegraphed day before yesterday to stop proceedings in Osman Bey's case, until particulars, of which he knows nothing, reach him; and he has promised to consider it as favourably as possible.

(Above sent to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.)

No. 628.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 23, 1879.

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your telegram of the 21st to Lord Dufferin about mixed occupation to Count Andrassy, who said that he concurs in all that is stated in it, except in making the adoption of the measure dependent on the consent of the Porte, which it may not be possible to obtain. This is, however, merely a first impression, and not a definitive opinion.

He agrees with your Lordship that every right secured by the Treaty to the Turks must still remain to them, and he considers it a matter of course that they should form part of the occupying army.

I understand Russian Ambassador has some doubt whether this is intended by his Government, as their telegram proposes the measure, as a means of "preventing the entry of the Turks."

No. 629.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 23, 1878.

OSMAN BEY is still in prison and under sentence. The Turkish Commissioners fear that if we leave this he will still be sent away. It would be well to have him released at once, so that Turks could send him to Constantinople.

General Stolipine writes me that he has telegraphed on the subject to Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

(Telegraphed to Lord Dufferin and Mr. Malet.)

No. 630.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 6, 1879.

THE Jewish community at Belgrade has drawn up an Address for presentation to Prince Milan, in which they express to His Highness in the most flattering terms their deep gratitude for the steps he has already caused to be taken to relieve them of all civil disabilities, and thus to place them on a footing of perfect equality with their Christian fellow-subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 631.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 7, 1879.

THE complete emancipation of the Jews, who, as your Lordship is aware, are already possessed of equal political rights, has never been seriously called in question by me, notwithstanding the jealousy and fears the measure has aroused among the trading classes in some of the chief towns of the Principality. The grounds on which I have arrived at this conviction are that in the eyes of the Government the Jews constitute the most orderly and submissive part of the community; that, including those in the newly-acquired territories, they scarcely number 2,000 in a population of over 1,500,000; that it is hoped, perhaps wrongly, means may be devised to exclude foreign Jews from Servia, and that they are in high favour with the peasantry, who form the great majority of the population, and who have learnt from experience to prefer dealing with them than with their own Christian fellow-townsmen.

My only apprehension has been lest the Government, if left to deal with the matter at its own good time, might be inclined to adjourn indefinitely the convocation of the Extraordinary or General Skuptchina, which in this country as at present constituted is a measure always costly and inconvenient, and now and then fraught with considerable danger for those in power.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has, however, solemnly assured me that before the year is out the Jewish question will be finally disposed of, adding that he is not yet in a position to enter into any more precise engagement; but I have satisfied myself that the Government are already actively at work taking those preliminary (arbitrary) steps which invariably precede an election in this country, and I have therefore reason to expect the matter will be settled in the course of the ensuing summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 632.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)
Belgrade, March 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Austro-Hungarian Government have officially notified to the Servian Government their intention of appointing a Vice-Consul to reside at Nisch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 633.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 68.)
Belgrade, March 11, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 61 of the 28th ultimo, reporting various diplomatic appointments, I have to state that the Russian Government have signified, through their Minister here, their readiness to accept M. Milos Protitch as the Representative of Servia at St. Petersburgh.

Count Bray, who has hitherto acted as Consul-General at Belgrade, has been raised to the rank of Consul-General and Chargé d'Affaires.

The Servian Government have, it seems, received official notice that the Porte will be represented here by Sermet Bey, instead of by Suleyman Boy, who had been previously designated for this post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 634.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 70.)
Belgrade, March 18, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL CATARGI, who was suddenly sent some weeks ago to St. Petersburgh by Prince Milan, as I had the honour of informing your Lordship at the time, has passed through Belgrade on his return journey to Nisch; but I regret to say I have not been able to ascertain either the precise object or the results of his special mission to the Russian Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 635.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 14. Consular.)
Bucharest, March 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Ottoman Porte has organized a regular Consular establishment within the dominions of Prince Charles, inclusive of the Dobrudscha, and that an exequatur has been applied for for the following posts:—

A Consul-General at Galatz.
A Consul at Turnu-Severin, Jassy, Giurgevo, Ibraila, Toultcha, and Koustendji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 636.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 43. Political. Confidential.)
Bucharest, March 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a despatch from Mr. White, marked No. 64, regarding the efforts of Russian agents to spread accusations against Austria, inclosed in your Lordship's covering despatch No. 49, 12th March, present year.

Regarding the contents of Mr. White's despatch I have the honour to observe:

It is certain that the Russian officials both in Bulgaria and elsewhere do accuse Austrian agents of spreading disturbances in Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia; and loudly proclaim that the chief fomenters of insurrection in the latter province are mostly Austrian subjects. Nor do they less accuse the Austrian Commissioner in East Roumelia of studiously fomenting trouble in that province.

It is however remarkable, that, out of six insurgent leaders who have within the last three months traversed Bulgaria on their way to or from Macedonia, having their point of departure in Servia, four should, to my certain knowledge, have been Austrian-born subjects—three of them in frequent relation, seemingly amicable and confidential, with the Austrian Consular establishment at Sophia. The strange secrecy with which the Austrian Commissary for East Roumelia, in conjunction with another Austrian official, surrounded their tour on the Bulgaro-Macedonian frontier at the close of last year; and the subsequent organization of insurgent bands under the notorious Hubmeyer, only three weeks since, are circumstances which have also given countenance, however unjustly, to the Russian accusations.

Of the other three insurgent leaders who have come under my cognizance, one only was a Russian born, one a native Bulgarian, and one a Pole having French protection. The Russian was, at my request, sent off under arrest to the Crimea; the Bulgarian was shot; the Pole relegated to Bucharest, where I met him yesterday.

I should also mention that my own anxieties on the very subject alluded to in Mr. White's despatch had been awakened more than a fortnight before I ever heard the topic alluded to by Prince Dondoukoff or any other Russian. I ought also to add that, on my arrival at Tirnovo, which preceded that of Prince Dondoukoff by five days, I found the special correspondent of the "Times" imbued with the very suspicions in question; though these may have been, of course, derived from other Russian sources.

It is much to be regretted that circumstances, possibly accidental and not connected with any organized system, should have given a plausibility, of which the Russians have amply availed themselves, to very serious accusations. But, in spite of express research, I have thus far been unable to trace the circumstances and facts themselves on which these very accusations are based to Russian action; a thing I was at first inclined to suspect, and which may, doubtless, be possible.

The Bulgarian paper, "Maritza," is, I am told, noways official, or regarded by the Russians as their organ; though the Russian Provisional Administration uses it for the publication of local decrees and proclamations.

In conclusion, I beg respectfully to subjoin that the animosity of Russian and Austrian officials in Bulgaria towards each other is such, that the ordinary courtesies of friendly intercourse can hardly be shown by a third party to either, without awakening the jealousy, at times even the animosity, of the other. This is much to be regretted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 637.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 38. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 12, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I had the honour of sending the following telegram, addressed to your Lordship:—

"I have received your Lordship's telegram of the 8th; many thanks for the instructions about Macedonia, to which I will strictly conform.

"The Assembly has been adjourned for a week, nominally to prepare the answer to the Prince's address; really, it is thought, to obstruct business.

"I leave for Bucharest on the 13th, and intend to return here in about eight days."

I am informed that, about the same time that the answer to the Prince's address will be laid before the Assembly for acceptance, a petition, drawn up and presented outside of and unconnected with the Assembly, will be laid before the Delegates of the Five Powers here present. This petition will, it is said, have reference to the future position and stability of the Principality. I have inquired of my colleagues their opinion on this subject, and they have all answered that they saw no reason for not accepting, *ad referendum*, any representation or petition regarding the Principality, so long as it was not presented by or in the name of the Assembly of Notables, nor in the name of individuals belonging to any extra-territorial jurisdiction, and so long as its acceptance was strictly limited to transmission, neither approval or comment being implied.

Under these circumstances, it seems to me safer to act rather in accordance with than divergently from my colleagues, and, subject to your Lordship's opinion, I have informed them accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 638.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, March* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that I dispatched at a late hour of this evening the following telegram addressed to your Lordship:—

"Queen's messenger left yesterday with despatches. I have instructed him to take the shortest route to London.

"At Sir H. Drummond Wolff's request, I communicated to M. Geshoff your Lordship's refusal to see him, and I have done my best to dissuade him from going altogether. No similar deputation is projected from Bulgaria.

"Ottoman Commissary objects to the paragraphs of the Organic Law programme regarding the territorial limits of the Principality, the hereditary succession, and the right of International Treaties regarding the interior of the Principality."

Explanatory of the above:—

With great difficulty I succeeded in persuading the Bulgarians to abandon the idea, on the execution of which they were at first resolved, of sending a deputation to Europe. But I did succeed. Over the East Roumelians I have, of course, less direct influence; but till M. Geshoff's arrival I held them tolerably in check. In doing this I had all through to be very cautious, lest by too flat an opposition I should put a powerful arm into the hands of those who, openly or covertly, seek to counteract our policy, and hinder the complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin, by enabling them, through a new outcry against England, to regain the influence which I have steadily and efficaciously undermined.

Within a few hours of my talk with M. Geshoff I had set on foot a movement among the Bulgarians, calculated to nullify any evil influence which that person or his colleagues might exert, and I almost hope that the East Roumelian deputation project will fall through as the Bulgarian has thus far done, without serious loss of influence to ourselves, or consequent accession of strength to our opponents.

My own temporary absence from Tirnovo, coinciding with that of the Russian Commissary, will leave the field open somewhat to the intrigues of a third party, which will, however, be carefully watched by my agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 639.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 40. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 14, 1879.

I HAD the honour to telegraph yesterday evening to your Lordship from Rustchuk, on my way hither, stating that I had already promised the Turkish Commissary at Tirnovo my support on the points indicated by your Lordship's telegram received on the same day, if authorized so to do. I shall accordingly avail myself of your Lordship's authorization on my return to Tirnovo, which will, accidents excepted, be on Wednesday next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 640.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 41. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 14, 1879.

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Lordship yesterday evening from Rustchuk, on my way hither, that the renewed accusations made against me at Vienna of a leaning towards Prince Dondoukoff were utterly false and calumnious; and that I had written already to your Lordship on this subject by a recent occasion, and would write further.

The subject is one of some delicacy; but I trust to be able to supply your Lordship with full information, and in suitable form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 641.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 15, 1879.

NOT long since I had the honour of being informed by your Lordship, both by telegram and despatch, that an absurd report had been made of my after-dinner speech at the opening of the Tirnovo Assembly. I had also then the honour of replying, by the same means of communication, that I did not know what the report in question might be, and that the speech itself having been, in the fullest sense of the word, extemporary, I had no copy of it by me; but that, as the said speech had been formally and absolutely approved by my colleagues, the Delegates then present, in whose name and at whose request it was made, I could not suppose that it had contained anything especially absurd or wrong. Not having at present the documents by me, I am unable to quote numbers or dates.

What I conjecture to be the Report alluded to by your Lordship has just reached me through private hand, in the form of an extract from a daily paper called the "Morning Post," in which it is said that Mr. Palgrave "is said to have used the expression, in welcoming Bulgaria as the last born among European States—'the last, that is, for the present;'" words which were "warmly applauded by the Roumelian Delegates." The writer continues—"We cannot believe that an English official thus held up the Treaty of Berlin to public contempt; and we shall be glad when an official denial of the language attributed to him is elicited."

I now beg to supply the following comments:—

Firstly: The speech having been made in French, the words attributed to me, which are English, not having been uttered, could not possibly have been applauded by anyone.

Secondly: Least of all could they have been applauded by the "Roumelian Delegates," that is, I suppose, "emissaries," certain official personages, myself among the number, and the Deputies of the Bulgarian Assembly of "Notables," having alone

been admitted to the dinner in question. Though, as the doors of the hall were open, it is possible that among the street crowd without some individuals from Eastern Roumelia, designated by the writer's courtesy as "Delegates," may have found place; and may, very likely, have applauded when others did.

Thirdly: That these Eastern Roumelians would seem, according to the above quotation, if I rightly understand it, to have applauded the idea of their own province becoming also a European State, to be later-born than Bulgaria. If so, the wish implied is new to me; as I had hitherto imagined, though perhaps erroneously, that the desire of the Eastern Roumelians was, not to form any separate European State, later-born than Bulgaria, but to be united with Bulgaria itself, and absorbed into it, not born.

Fourthly: That the words attributed to me appear to be very devoid of any intelligible meaning whatever, and to be, not treason, but nonsense; even beyond the customary license of an after-dinner speech.

But, mistranslated and misrepresented as they are, they supply me with a clue to what I really did say, and which, as it was the peroration of my speech, I fortunately remember. It was as follows:—

After four or five minutes of the appropriate and unmeaning generalities, it struck me that I had said nothing of practical use, especially in view of the intrigues, then in full force, for violating the Treaty of Berlin by breaking up the Assembly before it should have even commenced the work for which it had been convoked, namely, the framing of an Organic Law. And it seemed to me that I should be wanting to my duty if I did not make use of the occasion for what was then, and indeed has been, during my entire stay at Tirnovo, my chiefest object, namely, the countermining of such intrigues and schemes.

As the peroration of a speech is its most, often its only, effective part, I resolved to use it for this purpose.

Accordingly, I wound up by words to this effect: "Health and prosperity to Bulgaria, the last-born among European States: no, not the last-born yet, as her birth is not till, by the completion of the work assigned to this honourable Assembly, she has attained individual existence by an organized Constitution and an elected Prince; all health to her as she is at present, incomplete—nascent; more health yet when fully born she shall enter on the enjoyment of her autonomy, &c., &c."

Hereon, to my great satisfaction, loud cheers were raised by the Conservatives present, who immediately proposed chairing me, which was done, the Ultras joining in the cheers, because they could not help it. I subsequently asked the Conservative leaders if they had fully caught the meaning of what I had said; they laughed, and assured me that they had. But the subsequent annoyance of the Ultras, as also of their aiders and abettors, was extreme, and, not unnaturally, resulted in an attempt to recoup by calumny.

Such, my Lord, is the history of the proceedings alluded to. I respectfully apologize, not only for the length of the above recital, but also for having, on the present occasion, broken through my fixed rule of never noticing or replying to anonymous accusations, especially if formulated in the columns of a periodical, or of applying to an anonymous writer for correction or apology of any kind in such cases. On this account I made no mention of what had passed to the correspondents of the "Times" and the "Standard," though aware of their presence at Tirnovo, considering such means of rectification as unbecoming of my position, whether official or personal.

Should, however, the calumny be repeated in any quarter or by any persons to whom proper self-respect permits of an answer, I place, most respectfully, the above statement at your Lordship's absolute disposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 642.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, March* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that all the Russian soldiers that were at Galatz, about 500 in number, left yesterday on board the Russian steam barge "Viatka," proceeding down river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 643.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday the 14th I had another interview with Prince Gortchacow.

As the conversation in question was of considerable importance and had reference to some of the Emperor's observations to me at my audience on Tuesday the 11th, I asked his Highness' leave to consign its essential points to paper in order, as I told him, that he might himself verify their correctness and also submit them to His Majesty for his *imprimatur* and thus prevent misapprehension.

Prince Gortchacow has written to tell me that he has done so, and further, that the Emperor expressed great satisfaction on reading my concluding remarks.

I beg to inclose my letter to the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 643.

The Earl of Dufferin to Prince Gortchacow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, March* 15, 1879.

AT the audience to which the Emperor so graciously admitted me, His Majesty was pleased to allude to the possibility of the withdrawal of his troops from Eastern Roumelia becoming a signal for the massacre of Christians by the Turkish soldiery, in which event His Majesty gave me to understand it might be difficult for his army not to return to the assistance of their co-religionists.

In the conversation I had with your Highness to-night I took occasion to observe that under the Treaty of Berlin the Sultan would be entitled to assert his political authority over the province. It was possible, however, that here or there the inhabitants might be induced to oppose the exercise of this legitimate right; that out of that opposition there might ensue a riot in which blood might flow for the shedding of which the Turkish executive would be in no way responsible, and yet such an eventuality would be certainly denounced as a massacre of the Christians by the Turks. To this your Highness replied that neither His Majesty nor his armies would in any way countenance or protect the inhabitants of Roumelia in a resistance to the introduction of the régime provided for that province under the Treaty of Berlin. That the reference of His Majesty was not to a contingency of this nature, and that on the contrary the Russian Government would exercise their influence to the utmost to induce the Christians of Eastern Roumelia to acquiesce in the approaching settlement.

On this I again repeated to your Highness what I had already stated in a previous conversation, viz.: that although I had not received any special instructions on the subject, I had no hesitation in giving you the most positive assurances that upon its part Her Majesty's Government would be ready at all times to urge upon the Porte in an equally energetic manner to respect and maintain inviolate the administrative rights and privileges about to be granted to the Prince under the Constitution now being elaborated by the European Commissioner, and that England would feel herself as deeply concerned as Russia in seeing that that Constitution was respected by the Turkish authorities.

I think the foregoing is quite clear and explicit.

I have complied with your wish in regard to your Memorandum of our conversation on Sunday the 25th October.

I hope you will get this before you see His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 644.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Prince Gortchacow respecting my conversation with his Highness, as reported in my despatch No. 11 of the 9th instant.

This Memorandum, which was written for the information of the Emperor, tallies on all the principal points with my above-mentioned Report of what passed between his Highness and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 644.

Memorandum by Prince Gortchacow.

J'AI dit à Lord Dufferin que nous avons le sincère désir d'une entente solide et durable avec le Gouvernement Britannique, basée sur la dignité des deux pays.

Que chez nous, comme à Londres, on était sérieusement préoccupé des dangers qui résulteraient de l'antagonisme entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens en Roumélie Orientale le jour où nos troupes en seraît parties;

Qu'il faudrait chercher des garanties contre ces dangers, et que je demandais à Lord Dufferin si son Gouvernement l'avait chargé de m'en signaler.

Il m'a répondu que le Gouvernement Anglais partageait au même degré le désir d'une entente solide et durable avec nous, et qu'il se croyait aussi intéressé que nous à ce que le nouveau régime en Roumélie soit inauguré dans des conditions de sécurité favorables pour les habitants;

Qu'au sujet des garanties à trouver, le Comte Schouvaloff avait émis, dans une conversation avec lui, une idée qu'il avait soumise à Lord Salisbury, c'est-à-dire, de mettre les garnisons Turques dans les Balkans sous le commandement d'officiers Européens; qu'il était instruit par son Gouvernement d'en causer avec moi, et de me faire connaître que le Cabinet Anglais serait très-satisfait de savoir jusqu'à quel point cette idée du Comte Schouvaloff rencontrerait notre agrément.

J'ai répondu à Lord Dufferin que, sans me refuser à l'examen de cette idée, il y avait quelques circonstances qui devraient être éclaircies, c'est-à-dire, d'abord que la délimitation dans les Balkans soit achevée, qu'avant cela aucune troupe Turque ne pourrait s'y rendre en traversant les Balkans tant que nos troupes y seraient.

Qu'en outre, il serait désirable que le chiffre de ces garnisons Turques soit convenu d'avance, vu que la position de la Porte doit être défensive et non offensive, et que les endroits où les Turcs tiendraient ces garnisons fussent également désignés.

J'ajoutai qu'une garantie qui ne me semblait pas à dédaigner, quoique ce ne fut pas la seule, serait la nomination de Rustem Pacha au poste de Gouverneur-Général, que, personnellement, j'avais eu des bons rapports avec lui; mais que, quand je l'avais vu violer au Liban, au préjudice des Chrétiens, le Règlement—œuvre de Lord Dufferin—je devais être persuadé que sa présence en Roumélie serait un fait qui produirait une très-grande exaspération, et, peut-être, des désordres contraires au but des Signataires du Traité de Berlin; que je savais, d'ailleurs, que Rustem Pacha avait été envoyé, contre son gré, au Liban par ses adversaires à Constantinople; qu'il m'avait dit à plusieurs reprises qu'il n'était pas administrateur, mais diplomate. J'ajoutai que la télégraphie privée venait d'annoncer qu'il avait déclinée le poste de Bulgarie à cause de sa santé, et sollicitait sa nomination comme Ambassadeur à Rome.

Lord Dufferin me dit qu'il regrettait beaucoup ce point de vue, parce que son Gouvernement lui avait donné pour instruction d'appuyer autant que possible la nomination de Rustem, qui, aux yeux du Cabinet Anglais, serait un bon choix.

Je lui dis que l'essentiel était que la Porte acquit la conviction d'une entente réelle et solide entre l'Angleterre et nous, et qu'en pareil cas elle perdrait toute velléité de jouer sur la rivalité supposée entre les deux Gouvernements.

Lord Dufferin me répondit qu'il était convaincu que c'était la pensée de son Gouvernement, que tant la Porte que les Chrétiens fussent persuadés du ferme désir de son Gouvernement que les garanties d'autonomie assurées aux Chrétiens en Roumélie fussent respectées.

Je lui dis que c'était une idée que je trouvais pratique, et que je soumettrais à mon auguste Souverain. J'ajoutai que, de notre côté, nous parlerions avec la même énergie, tant à Philippopoli qu'à Constantinople, afin que ces garanties ne fussent violées ni d'une part ni de l'autre, et que c'était déjà un terrain sur lequel nous nous féliciterions de nous placer à côté du Gouvernement Anglais.

J'ai ajouté qu'à notre avis il ne fallait pas que le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale eût la faculté d'appeler les troupes Ottomanes sans l'assentiment des Cabinets, et qu'il serait bon que les Bulgares et la Roumélie en eussent l'assurance; que si cela n'était dans la lettre du Traité de Berlin je croyais que c'était dans son esprit.

Lord Dufferin me répondit qu'il transmettrait cette opinion à son Gouvernement, mais qu'il ne pouvait pas assurer qu'elle serait agréée.

J'ai terminé en informant Lord Dufferin que nous insistions sur la retraite de la flotte Anglaise de la Mer de Marmora.

St. Petersbourg, le 25 Février, 1879.

No. 645.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to state that I thought it advisable to transmit to Prince Gortchacow the draft of my report of my audience with the Emperor, with the view to its being submitted to His Majesty in order that I might be quite certain I had not, through inadvertence, misrepresented any of His Majesty's remarks.

I have since heard from Prince Gortchacow that the Emperor has been pleased to say that my report is correct. His Majesty has further expressed a desire that the observations he addressed to me should be taken in connection with what fell from Prince Gortchacow at my interview with his Highness on Sunday the 9th instant, and reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 11 of the same date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 646.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that last night I again waited by appointment on Prince Gortchacow.

Prince Gortchacow renewed to me the expression of his own and the Emperor's satisfaction with the assurances I had conveyed to him of the anxiety of the English Government to see the administrative privileges of the Roumelian population duly respected; and he observed that that declaration would form a very satisfactory basis for arriving at an amicable understanding between the two Governments.

He then proceeded to communicate to me three propositions, which he desired might be transmitted at once by telegram to your Lordship, namely:—

First, That the mutual assurances we had interchanged on behalf of our respective Governments, as noted in my letter to the Prince of the 15th instant, should be forwarded to the English and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople as the instructions in the spirit of which they were to speak and act.

Secondly. That it should not be competent for the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to introduce Turkish troops into the province until after reference had been made to the Courts of Europe.

Thirdly. That your Lordship would be good enough to consider how far the idea of the temporary occupation of Eastern Roumelia by small contingents from the armies of the Great Powers might recommend itself to your favourable consideration.

And lastly, he suggested the substitution of Aleko Pasha, formerly Ambassador of the Porte at Vienna, for Rustem Pasha.

I beg to subjoin a Memorandum handed to me by the Prince, embodying the substance of our interview.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 646.

Draft Report.

J'AI rendu le Count Dufferin attentif à la gravité de la situation caractérisée par le complot de Slivno et à l'urgence d'y aviser pratiquement. A cet effet je lui ai proposé de télégraphier à son Gouvernement les idées suivantes :—

1. Que les assurances qu'il nous a données et qui ont été entièrement approuvées par Lord Salisbury, c'est-à-dire, que le Gouvernement Anglais est prêt à peser en toute occasion sur la Porte pour assurer le respect des institutions octroyées à la Roumélie et qu'il se croit aussi intéressé que la Russie à ce que ces institutions soient respectées par les autorités Turques. Que ces assurances soient converties par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en une instruction formelle et positive à son Représentant à Constantinople.

Aussitôt que nous saurions que ces instructions sont expédiées de Londres nous en adresserions de semblables au Prince Labanoff. Si cette démarche simultanée était faite loyalement et avec l'énergie nécessaire, la Porte serait convaincue de l'entente existant à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements, et il semble difficile que cette conviction n'exerce pas sur ses actes une influence favorable.

Lord Dufferin m'a promis de le faire, en exprimant le désir que les paroles exposées dans son Mémorandum fussent textuellement introduites dans les instructions à donner aux Représentants des deux Gouvernements à Constantinople, tant celles concernant les engagements pris par l'Angleterre que les promesses correspondantes du Cabinet Impérial, savoir, que si les Bulgares de la Roumélie s'opposeraient à l'introduction du régime octroyé à la province en vertu du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Russe ne les soutiendrait ni ne les protégerait, mais qu'il userait au contraire de toute son influence afin de les engager à se soumettre à ces arrangements.

2. Je l'ai prié de réitérer à son Gouvernement le prix que nous attachons à ce que le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie n'eût pas la faculté de faire entrer les troupes Turques dans la province, avant que les Puissances ne se soient prononcées sur la valeur des motifs qui justifieraient l'appel de ces troupes conformément au Traité de Berlin.

Il avait déjà transmis cette opinion à Londres mais n'avait pas encore de réponse.

Il renouvellera cette communication.

3. Vu la gravité croissante de la situation et la brièveté du temps, je lui ai dit que nous étions prêts à discuter tout moyen pratique de conjurer les dangers que nous prévoyons.

Je lui ai rappelé que le Protocol No. 5 du Congrès de Berlin faisait mention d'une occupation mixte de la Roumélie Orientale suggérée par le Comte Andrassy et appuyée par Lord Beaconsfield.

Cette idée avait été abandonnée depuis lors ; toutefois en dernier lieu elle avait été abordée dans les entretiens entre le Marquis de Salisbury et le Comte Schouvaloff, et le Marquis n'y avait pas paru contraire.

J'ai prié le Comte Dufferin de demander ce que son Gouvernement pense d'une pareille combinaison, en ajoutant que s'il voulait en prendre l'initiative nous serions prêts à en discuter les détails ainsi que les voies et moyens d'exécution.

L'Ambassadeur m'a promis de s'acquitter de cette communication.

Il m'a demandé si de notre côté nous ne renoncerions pas à notre opposition au choix de Rustem Pacha.

Je lui ai dit que ce n'était pas une opposition de notre part, mais que nous avions cru devoir exposer les raisons qui nous faisaient envisager ce choix comme ne répondant pas au but des Puissances, vu l'impression fâcheuse qu'il produirait parmi les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale.

J'ai ajouté qu'il nous était revenu qu'en dernier lieu on avait parlé de donner à Rustem Pacha un adjoint dans la personne d'Aïecko Pacha, et que pour notre part, sans connaître ce dernier, nous n'aurions pas d'objection à ce qu'il fût proposé comme Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

No. 647.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 34. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1879.*

I PROPOSE to convey in this despatch, so far as my recent arrival entitles me to do so, my general impression of the attitude and disposition of this Government as well as to acquaint your Lordship with the language I have held to the various Ministers with whom I have come into contact.

I have now seen, besides Prince Gortchacow (with whom I have had a great number of lengthy interviews), most of the principal personages whom the Emperor is supposed to consult, including General Milutin, M. Giers, Count Kreptovitch, Baron Jomini, General Greig, and one or two others.

All these gentlemen have stated to me most positively the intention of His Majesty to abide by the Treaty of Berlin, to withdraw his troops, and to acquiesce in the introduction of the new régime into Eastern Roumelia, though most of them do not conceal their antipathy to this latter arrangement and their disbelief in its stability.

Prince Gortchacow openly manifests his desire to reduce, by every device in his power, the authority of the Porte over the province to a shadow or "enseigne," to use his own expression.

With this view he insists upon the imminence of a massacre of the Christians by the Turks the moment the Russian troops retire, and on the consequent necessity of providing "guarantees" against so great a calamity. Your Lordship is already acquainted with the character of these suggested "guarantees." Some of them might, perhaps, be found admissible, but the one upon which the Prince himself seems inclined to lay the greatest stress, namely, a prior reference to the Cabinets of Europe before the Governor-General could call in a force to suppress any revolt against the exercise of his legitimate authority, is so obviously impracticable, and so contrary to the decisions arrived at at Berlin as scarcely to possess the character of a serious proposal, and I have frankly told his Highness that this was my opinion of it.

Taking into account the general tone of the sentiments I have heard expressed, the strong personal assurances given to me by the Emperor himself of his intention both to withdraw his troops and to impress upon the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia the necessity of acquiescing in the new settlement, and the repetition of these assurances noted in my letter to Prince Gortchacow of the 15th instant, and their subsequent consignment to his Highness's Memorandum of the 18th instant, I cannot but conclude that the Emperor is desirous of coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government on the Roumelian question, always provided he can satisfy himself that the Turkish authorities will not abuse their power, or create illegitimate excuses for the occupation of the interior of the province by the forces of the Porte.

How far the sinister anticipations entertained here of what will happen when the Russian troops retire, is genuine or affected, well founded or the reverse, it would be difficult to say ; but the language adopted reminds me very forcibly of that held in Syria when the time drew near for the withdrawal of the French army from Beyrout.

But in forecasting the future we must not leave out of account the possibility, in the present temper of this country, of the revival of a very critical state of things, should such a catastrophe occur as that to which the Emperor and his Ministers have so frequently alluded. Nay, even if a conflict were provoked in Eastern Roumelia through the fault of the inhabitants themselves, its origin would be so misrepresented, its character would be so apt to change, that there might issue an emergency sufficient to endanger the peace of Europe, and this in spite of the assurances we have received in regard to the abstention

of the Imperial troops from all interference, were the authority of the Porte to be unlawfully resisted.

Very few words will suffice to inform your Lordship of the general tenour of my own observations.

From the first I have let it be distinctly understood that it was quite beyond my competence to discuss the merits of the Berlin Treaty, and that my instructions required me to urge upon this Government the exact and loyal fulfilment of its provisions, but that, within the lines of the Treaty, it was your Lordship's desire to consider, in the most friendly and conciliatory spirit, any suggestion which the Emperor's Ministers might wish to convey to Her Majesty's Government.

I have insisted strongly on the fact that the moment Russia frankly joined with us in inaugurating, under auspicious conditions, the new régime in Eastern Roumelia, she would find us as energetic as herself in requiring the Turkish authorities to respect the administrative rights and privileges about to be granted to the inhabitants of that province. That, as a matter of fact, it would probably be found that the Roumelian Constitution now being elaborated by the Commission would prove to be really of a more liberal and popular character than that recently drawn up for the Principality of Bulgaria, and that there was no reason its operation should not prove as successful as the previous experiment in the Lebanon; and that beyond the strategical question of the line of the Balkans, as it affected the safety of Constantinople and the peace of Europe generally, England had no possible interest antagonistic to the solicitude of the Russian people for the welfare of their co-religionists in Eastern Roumelia.

I have furthermore insisted that it would be a great mistake, even in the interest of the Roumelians themselves, for Russia to destroy the prestige and undermine the limited authority reserved to the Governor-General of the province by the Treaty of Berlin. For the sake of peace and order, it was necessary that the province should possess an executive, and that that executive should be endued with sufficient power to enable it to discharge its functions in an effectual manner; and, lastly, that it was unreasonable to expect that the Porte would ever consent to the appointment of a Governor-General, in whose fidelity and loyalty it could not place implicit confidence.

The foregoing is the general tenour of the language I have held, apart from what I may have said at the special interviews I have already reported to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 648.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of March 11, I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a note which I have addressed to M. de Giers, informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have named General Hamley to be the British Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier of Bulgaria, in the place of Colonel Home, lately deceased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 648.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'État, *St. Petersburgh, March 13, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have named General Hamley to be the British Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier of Bulgaria in the place of Colonel Home, lately deceased, whose appointment was notified to the Imperial Government in Mr. Plunkett's communication of the 11th September.

I have furthermore to inform your Excellency that General Hamley is prepared to start, and to commence operations whenever the other Powers signify their intention of directing their Commissioners to return.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 649.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 20, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has spoken to me about some Articles of the Bulgarian Constitution which appear to him at variance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin; and he inquired whether I was acquainted with your Lordship's opinion upon them.

He considers that the limits of the Principality having been fixed by the Great Powers, the first chapter of the Organic Law is superfluous and objectionable, but he especially denies the right of the Assembly at Tirnova to make any provision respecting a successor to the Prince who may be chosen, it being laid down in the Treaty that on the occurrence of a vacancy a new Prince should be elected in the same manner as the first.

I said that your Lordship had given me as yet no specific intimation of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the Organic Law, but that I had reason to know (from your Lordship's letter to Mr. Malet of the 11th instant, which is in the confidential print) that you took the same view as his Excellency upon the first chapter.

The Treaty does not appear to me to preclude the Assembly, quite so clearly as Count Andrassy assumes, from electing an hereditary Prince, for it merely states by the IIIrd Article that in the event of a vacancy in the "Princely Dignity," a new election shall be made as in the first instance, and as it may be argued that this expression is not synonymous with the death, abdication, or expulsion of the Prince, I should be glad to be informed of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 650.

Sir S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Brussels, March 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 14 of the 14th instant, which reached me to-day by messenger. I called in the course of the morning on M. Frère-Orban, and asked him whether any pressing circumstances had arisen which demanded the recognition of Roumania by the Belgian Government, with reference to which I had heard from your Lordship that morning.

M. Frère-Orban said that although nothing particular had occurred, the Roumanian Government were persistently and exceedingly pressing on the subject, but that before taking any steps in the matter he had thought it right to consult your Lordship.

There appeared to him, his Excellency said, to be a conflict of opinion between the Powers represented at Berlin with reference to the question of recognizing the independence of Roumania; Russia, Austria, and Turkey having done so, while England, France, Germany, and Italy declined taking that step until the Jewish question was settled in accordance with the views of the Congress.

It had also occurred to him that the interference of the Powers in an internal question like the emancipation of the Jews in Roumania might furnish a precedent for similar dealings with other secondary Powers, and in order to avoid the appearance of sanctioning such a claim, the Belgian Government was disposed to recognize Roumania. Your Lordship had, however, in reply pointed out that there was no analogy between the case of Roumania, which was not a State at all, and had no independence to be interfered with, and any attempt to dictate on internal questions to an independent State like Belgium.

I observed to M. Frère-Orban with respect to the conflict of opinion between the Powers to which he referred, although some of the Powers had found it convenient to enter into relations with Roumania, there could be no doubt that at Berlin they were unanimous in declaring that independence could be granted to Roumania only on condition that religious liberty should be recognized in the Principality, and that Prince Bismarck had been most particular in affirming the connection established by Congress between the proclamation of the independence of Roumania and Servia and the autonomy of Bulgaria, and the recognition of religious liberty in each of those States.

Referring to M. Frère-Orban's statement, that the commercial relations of Belgium might suffer from the non-recognition by her of Roumania, I asked his Excellency if he could inform me what was the value of the annual amount of trade between the two countries, and on M. Frère-Orban saying he could not give me at the moment any precise information, I observed that it could scarcely be of much importance since the export trade of Belgium to the whole of Turkey only amounted to 6,500,000 fr., while the import trade from the whole Turkish Empire did not exceed 15,000,000 fr. M. Frère-Orban expressed some doubt as to the correctness of the figures quoted by me, which, however, are those given in the last Official Statistical Report, that for 1875, and it is possible that since then the commerce between the two countries may have increased.

His Excellency added that the trade between Belgium and Roumania was more important than I imagined, though in consequence of its being carried on in transit and in foreign bottoms there was no trace of it in the Statistical Tables hitherto published.

M. Frère-Orban stated that at present there was no question of Roumania sending a representative to Brussels, as the necessary sum for the maintenance of such an agent had not appeared in the Budget, lately voted by the Roumanian Chambers.

Baron Lambermont, to whom I have also spoken on the subject, said that the Roumanian Government had even before the late Russo-Turkish war used all their influence to induce the Belgian Government to conclude a Treaty of Commerce with them, but the negotiations had failed, as the draft of the Treaty contained an expression implying recognition of the independence of Roumania which the Belgian Government could not admit.

In reply to the very urgent representations that had been since made on the subject, the Belgian Government had stated that the rule adopted by it in matters of this nature was to follow the example given by the majority of the Powers.

The Roumanian Government had been much displeased at this reply, and had announced its determination of establishing a fresh Tariff, the increased duties of which would certainly affect the trade of Belgium, though Baron Lambermont said he could scarcely suppose that it would be put in force against Belgium alone. On my asking Baron Lambermont in what consisted the trade of Belgium with Roumania, he said that of late there had been a rather extensive exportation from Belgium to that country in minerals, iron rails, girders, &c., but that as Belgian goods dispatched viâ Marseilles were placed in the Statistical Tables to France, and those viâ Vienna were set down to the trade with Austria, no trace appeared of the commerce of this country with Roumania which was larger than might be supposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 651.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, 4 P.M., and to acquaint your Lordship that I have addressed a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing his Excellency that Major-General Hamley of the Royal Artillery will start for Constantinople next week, as British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier, in place of the late Colonel Home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 652.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 21, 1879.*

I HAVE spoken to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 145 of the 18th instant and of Sir Drummond Wolff's telegram of the 16th, and have repeated to his Excellency, as I had already done before, that Her Majesty's Government considered it to be of great importance that all the Commissioners at Philippopolis should assist in bringing the labours of the Commission to a speedy conclusion.

I said that I had understood his Excellency to say, when I first mentioned the subject some time since, that the German Commissioner had already been urged to expedite the business of the Commission; but that gentleman having since declared that he had received no such instructions from his Government, I had been requested by your Lordship to express a hope that he would be furnished with them as soon as possible.

M. de Bülow replied that my impression was correct, but that he would repeat the desired instructions without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 653.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 22, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador has informed me that he communicated a Circular despatch from his Government yesterday to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, suggesting in accordance with the views already expressed by Count Schouvaloff to your Lordship on the subject of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia for a short limited period.

M. de Bülow, his Excellency said, had received it *ad referendum*.

I asked M. de Bülow since what he thought of the suggestion, and his Excellency said that while the German Government could not engage to take any part in a mixed occupation of Turkish territory, they would not object to other Powers doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 654.

Count Münster to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(Translation.)
My Lord, *German Embassy, March 22, 1879.*

WITH reference to our verbal conferences, I do myself the honour of informing your Excellency, very respectfully, that His Majesty the Emperor, in consideration of the willingness of the Princely Servian Government to fulfil the stipulations of Article XXXV of the Berlin Treaty, as manifested by its proposition to the Skuptchina on the subject, has appointed Count Bray, heretofore Consul-General, as Chargé d'Affaires of the German Empire at Belgrade.

Thereby the recognition of Servia's political independence is expressed on the part of Germany, in the expectation, founded on the attitude of the Principality hitherto, that the Government's proposition respecting the uniform position of creeds, already voted by the national representative body, will soon receive the still-required formal confirmation by the Grand Skuptchina.

With, &c.
(Signed) MÜNSTER.

No. 655.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 119. Secret and Urgent.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 23, 1879.*

POLICE [Commissary?] says that Russian authorities are asking him why Osman Bey has not been sent off? He keeps him back only by sick certificate. Can nothing be done?

No. 656.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, March 24, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires here has been endeavouring, under instruction from Tiflis, to induce the Persian Government to permit General Lazareff's force to land at Gez, the port of Asterabad, and proceed thence through Persian territory to attack the Akhal tribes. The proposal having been rejected by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Shimanovski desired to make direct personal appeal to the Shah, and on being informed that the refusal was absolute, said that, if persisted in, it would create a most unfavourable impression on the Imperial Cabinet at St. Petersburgh, both as regarded the Shah's Government and the Minister for Foreign Affairs personally.

His Highness stated, he informed me, in reply to this observation that under no circumstances would the Persian Government assent to the passage of Russian troops through their territory, and that, moreover, Persia would utter a formal protest if the expedition entered the district of Karakala, or there was any attempt made by the Russian authorities to renew their interference with that place.

(Communicated to Viceroy.)

No. 657.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 24, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 21, I have to instruct you to convey to the Italian Government the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for thier offer to act with England. I will send you instructions hereafter as to course Her Majesty's Government propose to pursue.

No. 658.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 24, 1879.*

MR. MALET has repeated to me your telegram of the 20th instant respecting the candidature of Prince Charles' brother.

There are reasons external to Bulgaria against English support of a relative of Prince Charles. At present do not concern yourself actively in choice of Prince.

No. 659.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 24, 1879.*

YOU will have learnt, from a telegram which I addressed to you to-day, that Mr. Malet has communicated to me your telegram to him of the 20th instant, on the subject of a conversation which you have had with Prince Charles of Roumania, in the

course of which you gathered that His Highness would not be averse to the selection of his younger brother as Prince of Bulgaria.

I have informed you in reply that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should for the present abstain from taking any active part in regard to the choice of a Prince, as there are reasons external to the Principality of Bulgaria which render it undesirable that the candidature of any relative of Prince Charles should receive English support.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 660.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 147.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 24, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 24 of the 22nd instant, I have to instruct you to express to Signor Depretis the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the offer of the Italian Government to act with England in the question of the proposed mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

Instructions will be sent to you hereafter as to the course which Her Majesty's Government propose to follow in this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 661.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. . Consular.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, February 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that it has been decided to commence without delay the projected line of railway from Tiflis to Baku on the Caspian, and also a line connecting Batoum with the Poti-Tiflis railway. The latter branch is to pass at first along the sea-shore, tunnelling under the Tzikinzeeree hill, thence to diverge inland directly to Ozurget by way of Mookstat. From Ozurget it crosses the Gouriel valley, and passing the small outer range of mountains, descends to the Rion and crosses that river at Orpiri, finally joining the Poti-Tiflis line at Samtreedy, five miles further on.

It is probable, from the nature of the country to be traversed, that this line will be very expensive.

As already reported to your Lordship, the Government of the Caucasus decided at the beginning of the winter on not receiving the Turkish Armenian population belonging to the Pachaliks of Van, Bayazid, &c., who wished to become Russian subjects, which caused some discontent, lately aggravated by the refusal to cede to the Armenian agricultural population of the Russian frontier districts the unoccupied lands and villages in the Pashalik of Kars, which they expected to obtain on easy terms, instead of which these lands are to be made over to German and Russian (Caucasian) colonists, the Government being aware that from these only can they count upon procuring transport in time of war.

Another grief is the converting by the Russians of a large mosque in Kars (formerly an Armenian church) into a Russian place of worship. The Armenians say that the Russians, by appropriating it, have behaved the same as the Turks.

Great scandals and disorders prevail among the civil employés of Kars, who are principally Armenians, who, as no well-educated or well-principled Russian or German official will consent to serve there, even for high pay, on account of the want of necessaries and general discomfort and barbarism, form a rather curious collection of employés.

The Chief of Police in Kars (a Colonel) is at present suspended for confiscating a valuable ring, which had been stolen from a Russian trader by a prostitute, and presenting it to his eldest daughter.

He was no sooner put under arrest than other disgraceful charges were made

against him; such as that money was regularly extorted by him and his officials from the public women of the city, under pain of immediate expulsion from the place. That he and his officers used to enter the "maisons publiques," order wine, &c., make the women dance, and pass the night there without paying, with other abuses.

A manufactory of forged notes has been discovered to have been going on for a considerable time in the monastery at Etchmiadzin, near Erivan, the seat of the Armenian Patriarchate.

The ecclesiastics of this establishment, who form, as your Lordship is perhaps aware, the very highest grades of Armenian clergy, had imported a Russian and Russo-German engraver, and established him in an empty vault under the cathedral, where he worked for some time safely enough. Having at length, however, themselves learnt the processes employed, this individual was murdered and thrown down a well.

One of the monks subsequently quarrelling with the rest, and finding his own life in danger, gave information of the affair to the authorities.

The Patriarch himself, an old man, who soon afterwards died, had only been aware of the business for a few days previous to the arrests. The Vice-Patriarch, or Bishop, however, who is supposed to have been the principal criminal, is, with others, under judgment, but the affair will probably be hushed up.

However, one need not go as far as the frontier to discover such scandals, the abuses and disorders prevailing in and around Tiflis being enough. Everything depends here on whether the public prosecutors have any personal motive, or otherwise.

People who are well known to have committed, or caused to be committed, the most cowardly and treacherous assassinations, are to be seen at liberty, whilst any one against whom the judicial authorities have (any of them) a private pique, or political grudge (or even if the complainant happens to be on friendly terms with one of them), can be indicted on a very serious charge for the least trifle.

Nine-tenths of the civil authorities are composed of a sort of *soi-disant* patriots, with whom it is the fashion to declaim against and abuse England and the English, and if it can be done safely, to personally insult.

The few gentlemen of the civil and military services are, however, far too disgusted with the abuses and rascalities that prevail to be patriotic in the above manner, being of opinion that the Government succeeding in its schemes of conquest and civilization is the very worst thing that could happen for the country at large, as perpetuating the gross abuses, oppressions, and corruption which universally prevail.

As regards military affairs, little or nothing of moment seems to be going on.

The field artillery is to be equipped with a new gun, of a much increased range and lower trajectory, the same calibre as before, and breech-loading, but on a different system.

They seem generally to expect a second campaign before long, but are in no hurry, their great losses during the war, and stupendous expenditure consequent on the shameless peculation (50 per cent. greater than ever before ventured on) which went on, having for the present in a manner paralyzed them.

Considerable sensation is being caused among the higher grades of the Caucasian army by the denunciations of Major Terentieff (a clever officer who served in the Caucasus during the war) published in the "Russki Mir." He accuses, with a few exceptions, the whole of the general Staff of the grossest inefficiency, mismanagement, and corruption, particularising numerous Generals and staff officers by name.

The latter gentlemen are forming a committee and sending a petition to the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Emperor demanding Major Terentieff's immediate arrest and trial by court-martial for insubordination and indiscipline; but, as nearly all his charges are true, it is believed that this request will not be complied with, more especially as he was enlarged by order of the Grand Duke (when arrested by order of Prince Mirski) for during last year (1878) publishing accusations of the same nature against General Kraievitch.

The plague at Astrachan and Kislar is said to have been stayed for a time by the very cold weather there prevalent, but is expected to break out very seriously when the spring sets in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 662.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 4, 1879.

THE invitation, copy of which is inclosed, reached the Commissioners yesterday morning at 10 A.M., only an hour before the ceremony.

Some of the Commissioners were hurt at the lateness of the invitation, and at its being addressed to them by order of the Governor-General, instead of directly by his Excellency. But as, notwithstanding political differences, I thought your Lordship would consider it right in me to take the opportunity of paying such a mark of respect on behalf of Her Majesty to the Czar, I attended with Mr. Walpole. Before I received the invitation, Mr. Cartwright had already gone out on horseback to see the review.

There were present, besides myself, only the German and Italian Commissioners.

General Stolipine and all the Russian authorities seemed pleased at our coming, and were particularly civil in giving us places, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 662.

Baron Hübsch to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

M. le Commissaire, *Philippopoli, le* 18 *Février*, 1879 (o. s.)

J'AI l'honneur de porter a votre connaissance que demain 19 Février, jour anniversaire de l'avènement au Trône de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, sera célébré un *Te Deum* solennel à 11 heures du matin, sur la place d'arme située près de la maison Takela.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général les indications ci-dessus vous sont communiquées pour le cas où vous désireriez assister à la cérémonie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) BARON HUBSCH DE GROSTHAL.

No. 663.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the "Maritza," in which is published a letter from Mr. Gladstone to M. Guesholf.

The same paper also contains an account of the assault recently made on the Greek Metropolitan at Adrianople. General Stolipine and the Russians have spoken to me in very disparaging terms of the morality of this prelate, and declare that his mode of life and the coarse language he made use of to a deputation of women were the principal causes of the attack.

This is denied by the Greeks.

I further beg leave to inclose a copy of the "Philippopoli," which also speaks of the assault on the Archbishop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 663.

Extract from the "Maritza."

Plovdiv, le 19 Février, 1879.

NOS lecteurs se souviennent peut-être, que lors de la présentation aux Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople de la protestation Bulgare contre les clauses du Traité de Berlin qui concernent notre patrie, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, Sir Austin Layard, dit aux Délégués Bulgares, MM. Grécoff et Natchovitch, que Mr. Gladstone lui aurait écrit qu'il avait honte des Bulgares et qu'il n'osait plus défendre cette race. Les Délégués de la Bulgarie du sud, qui s'étaient réunis alors à Philippopoli pour présenter à la Commission Européenne le Mémoire qu'on connaît, justement émus de cette assertion de l'Ambassadeur Anglais, écrivirent à Mr. Gladstone pour le remercier de sa noble défense des Bulgares, et pour le prier de vouloir bien les rassurer à l'endroit de ses précieuses sympathies, qu'ils ne croyaient pouvoir jamais leur faire défaut. Mr. Gladstone vient de répondre, en adressant la lettre suivante à l'un des Délégués qui avaient signé l'adresse de Bulgares méridionaux.

"Monsieur, "*Le 14 Février*, 1879.

"Je reçus avec plaisir la chaleureuse et aimable adresse du 3 Novembre, au bas de laquelle votre nom est souscrit parmi ceux des autres Délégués Bulgares des Sandjaks de Philippopoli et Slimnia.

"Il ne me parut pas dans le temps que cette pièce demandât une réponse spécifique de ma part; mais en la parcourant de nouveau, je vois qu'elle contient un pressant appel pour l'expression de mes sentiments quant à un bruit qui aurait été mis en circulation et d'après lequel mes sympathies auraient été retirées aux Bulgares par suite des outrages commis contre les Mahométans par quelques-uns d'entre eux.

"Ces bruits sont entièrement sans fondement, et vous êtes libre de faire publier cela, si vous le jugez assez important pour une déclaration publique.

"Tout ce que j'ai dit au sujet d'outrages commis par des Bulgares sur des Mahométans a été dit de la manière la plus publique. Je ne vois aucune nécessité de le répeter et aucune nécessité de le modifier ou de le retirer. Mais je n'ai jamais vu aucune preuve ou présomption que le peuple Bulgare en général ait été infecté de cruauté; quoiqu'il soit vrai, comme votre adresse l'avoue franchement, que quelques-uns ont été si corrompus par le régime abrutissant qui a duré longtemps dans leur pays, qu'ils ont commis des actes honteux pour des hommes, surtout pour des hommes Chrétiens.

"Je me suis abstenu de discuter publiquement les plans du Congrès de Berlin pour les Bulgares méridionaux de la Roumélie Orientale, parce que, quoiqu'ils ne soient pas ceux que j'aurais choisis, je crois de mon devoir d'apprendre en premier lieu s'ils ne sont pas capables, par la prudence des Commissaires, d'obtenir un développement pratique assez sage et juste pour pouvoir leur assurer, quant à leurs personnes, propriétés, l'honneur des femmes et tous les droits civils, les mêmes bienfaits que ceux que leurs frères au nord des Balkans auront le plein pouvoir d'élaborer pour eux-mêmes. Vers cette fin, soyez sûr; tous mes désirs sont dirigés avec la même sincérité que jusqu'à présent, et je ne désespérerai pas de la voir atteinte par les moyens que le Congrès a jugés suffisants jusqu'à ce que je ne voie leur insuccès, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise."

"Je suis, &c.
(Signé) "W. E. GLADSTONE.

"M. J. E. Gueshoff."

Nous sommes sûr d'exprimer les sentiments de tous les Bulgares éclairés en remerciant l'honorable Mr. Gladstone de la manière éclatante dont il vient de démentir une assertion qui aurait pu nuire gravement à la cause d'un peuple qui a tant souffert de la calomnie. Quant aux appréciations que l'illustre homme d'Etat émet au sujet des arrangements que le Congrès a jugés suffisants pour assurer le bien-être des Bulgares de cette province, nous serions peut-être enclin à nous y associer, si nous pouvions croire pour un seul instant que ces arrangements sont de nature à mettre la Commission Européenne à même de nous doter des mêmes bienfaits que ceux que nos frères du nord pourront élaborer pour leur pays. Mais tant que le Gouvernement Turc aura le droit d'établir ces foyers de troubles qu'on appelle les garnisons des Balkans, tant que la Porte aura le droit de faire juger par ses créatures le Gouverneur-Général de cette province et ce Gouverneur le devoir de faire appeler les troupes Ottomanes pour étouffer les désordres que la Porte elle-même aura excités, nous ne pouvons pas croire à l'efficacité de ces arrangements, par les raisons que nous avons souvent exposées et que nous aurons peut-être l'occasion de répéter dans notre prochain numéro.

Depuis que nous avons vu certains rapports et les résultats de certaine enquête faire, malgré leur caractère aussi haineux que risible, le tour de l'Europe et être exploités de la manière la plus indigne contre notre pays, nous devrions opposer le silence du mépris à toute incartade de cette nature. Si, néanmoins, nous dérogeons, à propos des regrettables événements d'Andrinople, à cette règle, c'est que les journaux de Stamboul nous font la partie vraiment trop belle pour que nous renoncions à signaler à l'indignation de tous les honnêtes gens l'insigne de mauvaise foi et l'aplomb effronté d'une presse qui a la prétention de défendre le seul élément de la presqu'île des Balkans. La vérité, assez attristante cependant, ne suffit pas à ces journaux; ils y ajoutent encore des détails monstrueux de leur cru pour pouvoir nous traiter de "bêtes fauves," et pour appeler l'Europe au secours contre ses "féroces Bulgares," qui ne songeraient à rien moins qu'à exécuter une St. Barthélemy parmi les Grecs. Dans leur rage furibonde ils oublient, les malheureux, les notions les plus élémentaires de leur statistique; ils font à M. Synvet l'injure de laisser supposer qu'il y ait des Bulgares jusqu'au delà d'Andrinople, et ils ne s'aperçoivent même pas que la première réflexion que tout homme de bon sens fera à la lecture de leurs sorties contre les Bulgares, ce sera de trouver les descendants de Léonidas bien dégénérés pour qu'ils aient laissé traîner dans la rue, en plein pays Grec, selon eux, l'un de leurs plus hauts dignitaires ecclésiastiques, par une poignée de mégères soi-disant Bulgares.

Le Rapport officiel qui nous a été communiqué, ainsi qu'à notre confrère Grec de Philippopoli, a déjà fait justice de toutes ces diatribes. La foule des assaillants se composait de Grecs et de Bulgares, les femmes étaient plus acharnées que les hommes, et la principale cause de l'attentat a été une extorsion de signatures: voilà ce qui est dès à présent officiellement constaté. L'instruction judiciaire, qui se poursuit activement, malgré le désistement du prélat Grec, établira des faits bien plus graves encore à la charge de Mgr. Dyonisios; elle confirmera, nous n'en doutons pas, tout ce que nos correspondances d'Andrinople, que nous résumons plus loin, nous ont appris; la personnalité de notre correspondant nous en est un sûr garant. On trouvera, dans ce résumé, le récit de l'inqualifiable abus fait par l'Archevêque Grec avec des signatures extorquées sous un faux prétexte; on y verra que c'est la fille de l'un des familiers du Palais Métropolitain qui s'acharna le plus contre son Eminence; on verra que des quartiers et des villages passant pour entièrement Grecs ont fourni le plus gros du contingent de l'émeute, et que si nos compatriotes y ont participé aussi, c'étaient dans tous les cas de ceux que les statisticiens Grecs affublent de la dénomination étrange de "Bulgarophones," c'est-à-dire, de ces Bulgares qui sont maintenus sous la juridiction spirituelle du Patriarcat. Quant aux Bulgares de la juridiction de l'Exarquat, ils ne pouvaient y avoir pris part, par la bonne raison qu'ils n'avaient point à demander d'explications à un prélat dont ils ne reconnaissent pas l'autorité, et avec lequel ils n'ont aucune relation.

Voilà autant de faits qui ne laissent subsister le moindre doute sur le caractère Grec de l'agression, et comme les journaux Grecs ne sont certainement pas à ignorer ces détails, on comprend qu'ils déploient toutes les ressources pour donner le change au public sur les motifs et les auteurs de l'odieux attentat. Mais ce que l'on s'expliquera moins facilement, c'est l'incroyable audace ou la naïveté avec laquelle ces journaux, qui traitent les Bulgares de "bêtes fauves," recommandent leurs propres clients comme des modèles de mansuétude à l'Europe. Se figurent-ils que l'Europe ne connaît pas le peuple qui a inauguré l'ère de son indépendance par l'assassinat du principal fondateur de cette indépendance, le peuple chez lequel le brigandage existe à l'état d'une institution nationale, le peuple chez lequel des Européens sont massacrés aux portes d'Athènes? Et se figurent-ils que la lâche agression faite tout récemment, en pleine Péra, sur un des publicistes Européens le plus universellement estimé, soit déjà oubliée? Ah, vraiment les défenseurs de

semblables clients sont bien venus pour dénoncer à l'Europe les "sauvageries Bulgares."

Voici, en substance, les renseignements que nous avons reçus de notre Correspondant d'Andrinople.

"Pour se rendre bien compte du véritable caractère des désordres dont cette ville vient d'être le théâtre, il est indispensable de vous rapporter le fait suivant:—

"Avant l'arrivée du Vali, Réouf Pacha, le Métropolitain Grec, Mgr. Dyonisios, celui-là meme qui n'échappa que par la fuite à la vindicte populaire des Crétois qui l'accusait de trahison, avait recueilli avec la question: 'Est-tu Chrétien (de la juridiction du Patriarcat) ou schismatique (de la juridiction de l'Exarquat)?' plusieurs milliers de signatures qui devaient, disait-il, servir pour une pétition concernant la remise de l'Eglise Bulgare de Kaïk aux Grecs. Au lieu de cela, son Eminence se servit de ces signatures pour une adresse de dévoûment aux autorités Turques. De plus, Mgr. Dyonisios n'hésita pas de dire, lors de la réception de Réouf Pacha au Palais Métropolitain, devant la foule des fidèles rassemblés, que la population Chrétienne, pliée jusqu'à ce jour sous un joug étranger, saluait avec joie le retour sous la protection du Gouvernement Turc, sous laquelle elle jouirait de nouveau de l'ancienne liberté. Cette ancienne liberté s'était traduite quelques jours avant par des assassinats commis sur des Chrétiens de Kaïk et d'Ilderim.

"Ajoutez à cela que les Turcs ne cessaient, sous les yeux des Russes, de proférer les plus sinistres menaces: 'L'heure de la revanche,' disaient-ils publiquement, 'si impatiemment attendue, est enfin arrivée. Vos corps nous serviront de briques, votre sang de ciment pour rebâtir nos maisons détruites.' Vous comprendrez, dans quelles dispositions d'esprit des faits pareils avaient mis la population.

"La première manifestation qui eut lieu était mise en scène exclusivement par des femmes de Kaïk et d'Ilderim. Environ 160 femmes, tant Grecques que Bulgares, se rendirent auprès du Gouverneur Russe pour lui demander qu'il leur indiquât un endroit où elles pussent émigrer afin d'échapper à la férocité des Turcs. Le Gouverneur ne pouvant tranquilliser les femmes, fit appeler Réouf Pacha, le Métropolitain Grec et l'Evêque Bulgare. Ce dernier seul parut avec le Mufti, et le Gouverneur réussit à se débarrasser des femmes en les invitant à venir dans quatre jours prendre une réponse définitive. Mais, dès le surlendemain, une démonstration beaucoup plus considérable se produisit; plus de 4,000 hommes, femmes, et enfants envahirent la Préfecture. La foule remit une pétition au Gouverneur où elle réclama en cinq points des garanties sérieuses contre les excès des Turcs. Elle demanda en outre avec des cris de fureur que l'Archevêque Grec, qui avait osé dire que la population Chrétienne désirait le retour des Turcs, vînt donner une explication sur l'abus fait avec des signatures extorquées. Le Gouverneur envoya trois fois chercher Mgr. Dyonisios, et celui-ci n'arrivant pas, le Général Molostroff se rendit lui-même auprès de son Eminence. Le Gouverneur aussi revint tout seul. Alors la foule, exaspérée, se rendit elle-même chez le Métropolitan Grec qu'elle trouva entouré de ses conseillers le plus universellement détestés. Aux invitations de la population de la suivre au conak, Mgr. Dyonisios répondit par des injures et des provocations. Des femmes toutes les premières saisirent le prélat, le traînèrent dans la rue et le maltraitèrent jusqu'à ce que la police arrivât. Ce qu'il y a de plus significatif dans cette scène de sauvagerie, c'est que ce soit la fille d'un des familiers du Palais Métropolitan qui s'est la première ruée sur Monseigneur, et qui n'a pas cessé de le frapper. Douze individus, dont sept Grecs et cinq Bulgares, furent arrêtés sur le champ par la police accourue.

"Le lendemain une foule encore plus considérable se rassembla devant le conak pour demander la mise en liberté des individus arrêtés la veille. Les Cosaques chargèrent la multitude plusieurs fois, mais celle-ci ne bougea pas; elle continua à crier: 'nous ne voulons pas de Turcs!' et à demander le Métropolitain Grec. Enfin le Gouverneur, après avoir donné lecture des Proclamations du Vali, Réouf Pacha, et Général Stolipine, parvint à disperser la foule.

Naturellement, les journaux Grecs rejettent toute la faute de ces événements regrettables sur les Bulgares; ils ne peuvent laisser passer une si belle occasion pour signaler à l'Europe les dangers que court la civilisation si on ne prend pas de mesures contre le progrès de notre barbarie.

"L'instruction de cette affaire prouvera au contraire que la plus large part

dans l'agression sur le prélat revient à ses propres ouailles. Dès à présent l'instruction a prouvé, par exemple, que des quatre femmes qui se sont le plus acharnées contre Monseigneur, trois étaient Grecques, une seulement était Bulgare, mais celle-là aussi de la juridiction du Métropolitain Grec.

"Bien que ces faits suffisent pour réduire à leur juste valeur les mensonges de nos adversaires, je n'en tiens pas moins à vous convaincre, preuves en mains, que pas un Bulgare de la juridiction spirituelle de l'Exarquat n'a pris part à cette lâche agression. Le Néologos et le Thraki me donnent le meilleur appui pour cette démonstration, en affirmant que la foule qui avait envahi le Palais Métropolitain se composait d'habitants du Faubourg d'Ilderim. Pour la statistique, nous nous en rapportons cette fois-ci au Néologos et à Mgr. Synvet, qui n'ont jamais cessé d'affirmer que les habitants de ce faubourg étaient ainsi que toute la population Orthodoxe d'Andrinople exclusivement Grecs. A ceux qui ne se contenteraient pas de l'autorité du Néologos, nous conseillerions de s'adresser au Métropolitain Grec qui leur donnera les mêmes renseignements sur la nationalité des habitants d'Ilderim. Où donc sont les Bulgares? Car enfin se serait par trop plaisant que d'appeler une population Grecque tant qu'il s'agit d'augmenter l'importance de l'élément Grec et de la faire passer pour Bulgare dès qu'elle a fait quelques excès. La vérité est, qu'il y a dans le Faubourg d'Ilderim des Bulgares, mais de ces Bulgares qui continuent à reconnaître le Patriarche Grec pour leur Chef spirituel.

"La cause principale des troubles a été, personne à Andrinople ne songe à le contester, l'intention des habitants de protester contre l'abus inqualifiable fait de leurs signatures. Voilà pourquoi la foule exigea au conak à ce que le Métropolitain Grec et ses partisans les plus détestés vinrent s'expliquer sur l'usage des signatures recueillies; voilà pourquoi la foule, voyant que l'Archevêque n'arrivait pas, après des citations réitérées, alla elle-même le trouver. Cela ne prouve-t-il pas jusqu'à l'évidence que les Bulgares de la juridiction de l'Exarquat n'avaient rien à voir dans cette affaire, où il s'agissait d'une réclamation à propos de signatures que pas un d'eux n'avait données.

"Il y a encore des preuves plus convainquantes contre les Grecs. Ainsi l'instruction a établi qu'en dehors des habitants d'Ilderim, il y a eu parmi les manifestants aussi un grand nombre de paysans de Karagatch, Bosnakeuy, Tchorikeuy, Yenikeuy, et Riza, villages exclusivement Grecs, et de Marasch et Demirdet, villages mixtes; d'autres villages des environs, où l'élément Bulgare prédomine, il n'est pas question. Or, peut-on admettre sérieusement que dans une manifestation Bulgare, des villages Grecs prennent part, et que les villages Bulgares restent simples spectateurs? Le caractère éminemment Grec de l'attentat a-t-il encore besoin d'autres démonstrations?

"Le fait suivant expliquera, d'ailleurs, d'une maniere encore plus frappante l'esprit dont les Grecs sont animés envers leur clergé.

"Lorsqu'il y a un an l'armée Russe approchait d'Ortakeuy, bourg principal du district d'Andrinople, et siége de l'Eparchie de Lythie, la population demanda au Métropolitain, Mgr. Ignatios, de se rendre à la tête d'une députation à la rencontre des Russes. Le Metropolitain refusa, mais devant l'insistance de la population il se décida à envoyer son Vicaire-Général avec une petite allocution écrite. Le Vicaire-Général partit avec la députation, mais avant lu l'allocution qu'il devait prononcer, il déclara en route qu'il ne pouvait se présenter devant les Russes. Pressé de dire le motif de sa résolution, il exhiba la petite allocution, et les habitants y lurent, à leur grande stupéfaction, que le Métropolitain y affirmait à peu près ceci:—'Les Chrétiens, complétement satisfaits du régime Ottoman, vivaient en frères avec les Turcs. Mais l'arrivée des Russes pouvant troubler la bonne harmonie entre Turcs et Chrétiens, la population prie le Commandant Russe de faire grâce à leur localité de l'occupation Russe.'

"A la lecture de ce factum la députation, exaspérée, retourna sur ses pas, envahit le Palais Métropolitain, et se rua sur Mgr. Ignatios, qu'elle finit par mettre sous verrou pour le livrer à la justice Russe. Mais le prélat réussit à s'échapper avant l'arrivée des Russes. L'agression d'Andrinople n'est-elle donc pas une simple répétition des scènes d'Ortakeuy? Ou bien étaient-ce encore des Bulgares, dont il n'y a pas trace à Ortakeuy, qui avaient outragé Mgr. Ignatios? Les journaux Grecs, qu'en pensent-ils?"

En terminant notre correspondant nous dit encore quelques mots sur le rôle pacificateur que joue l'Evêque Bulgare dans les graves circonstances actuelles:—

"Il y a de l'espoir, nous écrit-il, que l'évacuation s'effectuera sans de nouveaux incidents fâcheux, grâce surtout au zèle infatigable de Mgr. Synesy Stovysky, délégué de l'Exarquat. Sa Grandeur se donne toutes les peines du monde pour

persuader la population de ne point abandonner ses foyers, mais d'attendre avec confiance la réalisation des promesses rassurantes de Réouf Pacha. En vérité, le contraste entre la position de l'Evêque Bulgare et du Métropolitain Grec est vraiment étrange. Pendant que ce dernier est haï et détesté par toute la population Chrétienne, quelques familiers exceptés, l'Evêque Bulgare jouit, aussi bien auprès des Grecs qu'auprès des Bulgares, d'une autorité telle que de toutes les localités du district paysans et bourgeois affluent chez sa Grandeur pour entendre des paroles consolatrices. N'est-ce pas là la meilleure preuve que l'attentat contre Mgr. Dyonisios tout répréhensible qu'il est, n'en doit pas moins être considéré comme un acte provoqué par l'attitude du prélat, attitude qui fait rougir tout sincère patriote Grec?"

A notre tour, nous demandons: Qu'en pensent les journaux Grecs?

No. 664.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 98. Very Confidential.)

Philippopolis, March 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I FEAR I may have given much trouble by the frequency and length of my telegrams.

But the distance from England is so great and the time left for the Commission so short that I have thought it right to give to your Lordship the earliest intelligence of the changes and events that succeed each other here with considerable rapidity.

The conduct of the French Commissioners is daily becoming more astonishing. This remark applies, I must say, principally to M. de Coutouly, as Baron de Ring is very guarded and prudent in his language, however much his acts in private may justify the statements of his assistant.

M. de Coutouly, being unwell, I called on him a few days ago, when he opened out to me on the dangers of our position. What he despaired of was France. He saw her humiliated and depressed, &c. Unless something was done to modify the Balkan garrisons and to introduce an European Governor, our mission here would be a veritable failure.

I told him that I understood his Government was not of this opinion. He replied that he knew this, and that he was not sure whether in case M. Waddington did not take their advice he and M. de Ring would not send in their resignation, and publish their Reports for the judgment of France.

As he has been constantly holding over us the resignation of his functions as a member of the Committee of Finance, the threat did not appear to me very formidable. I merely recalled to him a saying, attributed, I believe, to Oxenstiern: "Cavete a resignationibus."

He then went on to say that we were fatally giving up this country to Russia and Austria. He considered M. de Kallay a most dangerous man, whose only desire was to obtain Salonica for Austria. As this has been the language both of Prince Tzeretelew and Prince Dondoukoff the source of it was apparent.

After he had made several observations in this strain, I replied to M. de Coutouly that I was not ambitious enough to think Her Majesty's Government had sent me here to project a new Eastern policy. Anything I might hear I submitted to your Lordship, and I had, as he was aware, reported home the views M. de Ring and himself had expressed to me. Neither was I here to alter the Treaty of Berlin, but, in conjunction with the other Commissioners, to carry out the details of that settlement. These details were the elaboration of the Règlement, and the conduct of the finances. On our arrival at Constantinople M. de Ring, M. de Kallay, and myself had held a meeting, at which we agreed to act together on certain fixed points. In so doing I believed we obeyed the wishes of our Governments. So long as I found M. de Kallay was following the same course I would work with him, as I conceived that he was thus endeavouring to carry out the Treaty of Berlin as it had been signed and ratified. It was not my business to look after Salonica, or to oppose my own Government because they did not alter the Treaty, which they had selected me to carry out, even if I thought, which I did not, such an alteration necessary.

The same day M. de Braunschweig called on me. His visits have been much more frequent since the manifestation of an intimacy between the Russians and the French. He wished to speak with me on two points. First he informed me that he had received

from a trustworthy source, viz., a German engineer on the railway, intelligence that the Bulgarians were saying everywhere they were willing to accept the Treaty of Berlin, as it was to be carried out under a French Governor and French gendarmerie. This, he said, evidently was a *mot d'ordre* of the Exarch or Metropolitan, and he asked me my opinion on the subject.

I told M. de Braunschweig that the policy of the French was pretty evident. M. Fournier wanted to be Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. de Ring some diplomatic promotion, and M. de Coutouly the Governorship of the province. In the present transitory state of France they thought they could bring themselves forward by inventing a policy of their own. This was to create a French influence here sufficient to enlist the sympathy, if not the support, of Russia in a future war between France and Germany. I did not think they had acted dexterously, as their sudden change of front had not entirely satisfied the Russians, while it had roused the suspicions of every one else. They had endeavoured to create dissensions not only between myself and M. de Kallay, but between that gentleman and the Turks, and they had failed. M. Vernoni had been astonished at their attitude, and they themselves had been obliged to vote with us, five to one, against the Russians, while he, M. de Braunschweig, had maintained his abstention, which, if not favourable to the five, was not more favourable to the Russians.

The conduct of M. de Coutouly was the most extraordinary. He had not only begun by an attitude of official hostility to the Russians, but he had on more than one occasion plumed himself on the journalistic campaign he had inspired in France against the Dondoukoff-Maréchal contract. He had endeavoured to solve a problem which baffled far more experienced intellects, that of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

M. de Braunschweig then proceeded to excuse the line he had taken. He said he was only a "petit Vice-Consul," and he knew the policy of his country, which, founded on a fear of French reprisals, did not venture to break with Russia. All Germans disliked Russia. He partook of these sentiments, and he was horror struck at the conduct of the Russian authorities both in financial matters and in their evasion of Treaty engagements, which Germany was determined to carry out. Though he said little, nothing had escaped him, and, if I could see his reports, he was convinced I should be pleased with them. He could not undertake to support us, but the Russians would equally not be supported by him. The result would be their complete isolation. He said he had at first been hurt at my suspicion of him, but he was sure that had been removed, and he had reported to his Government the confidence I now placed in him.

I told him that as to his being a Vice-Consul that had nothing to do with the matter. If his rank had ever been brought forward it was because at one of our private sittings at Therapia, when he was absent, Prince Tzeretelew had stated he had been appointed because he was a Vice-Consul, and that he (Prince Tzeretelew) would undertake ("se portait fort") on his behalf to sanction a Protocol. I knew that in Germany in social station and educational requirements Vice-Consuls held a much higher rank in the official hierarchy than elsewhere. Besides this, whatever they might be otherwise, the Commissioners in that respect were all equal, and to a man recognized his position as the Commissioner of a most powerful State, at the capital of which the Treaty had been signed, under which we were working. At first we had all thought his instructions were to vote with the Russians *quand même*. This idea had been confirmed by the language of several German diplomatists, and Count Hatzfeldt had gone so far as to tell me when I related to him the details of the Maréchal contract that my information was incorrect.

But we had all gradually awakened to the fact that such was not the case, and we respected the line he had taken under very difficult circumstances.

He then proceeded to the second topic, on which he wished to speak to me confidentially. M. Schmidt and he were old friends. They both came from Prussia, were both officers of the Prussian reserves, had fought in the Franco-German war, and were decorated with the Iron Cross. M. Schmidt was much distressed at thinking that the Commission was privately of opinion that he was wanting in his duty in not having already undertaken his journey to the districts, and perhaps attributed his conduct to a want of personal courage.

M. de Braunschweig went on to say that M. Schmidt was in a most painful dilemma. The Russians had been almost insulting to him, and unless he were supported by the Commission his position would be untenable. The fact was that while the Commission and even the Russians had pressed his departure he had been held back by remonstrances from M. de Coutouly. These had culminated in a letter addressed to M. Schmidt by that gentleman. Of this he was not able to give me a copy, but I managed later to

obtain the original, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy made and certified by Mr. Cartwright.

It appears that the Commissioner alluded to by M. de Coutouly is M. de Kallay.

On the afternoon of Monday I saw General Stolipine, and had a conversation with him on the subject of the militia and gendarmerie.

His Excellency informed me that his desire was for the militia to be the stronger body of the two. The reasons he gave were of a curious nature. He said that the gendarmerie, being able to read and write, would be of a revolutionary character, whereas the militia, being illiterate, would be conservative in their tendencies. On these grounds he desired to strengthen that branch of the service.

On Wednesday M. de Torcy, the French Military Attaché, informed me that General Stolipine had made use to him of the same language, and that his Excellency's ideas as to the formation of the two bodies were such as would make the position of the Governor perfectly untenable. I telegraphed at once to your Lordship, and, as Sir Collingwood Dickson has arrived here, I shall shortly have to address your Lordship at length on the subject. It is the one question on which depends the success of the provincial arrangements. No doubt there will be a struggle on it, but, I trust, one that may end satisfactorily.

I have thus endeavoured to inform your Lordship of the present position of affairs here, which is much complicated by the strange behaviour of M. de Coutouly. I doubt much whether his conduct has any very great influence on M. de Ring, who, I am now told, is opposed to the Russian views on the gendarmerie and militia. The desire of France, at all events as represented here and at Constantinople, is to obtain a marked and accentuated influence in this province, and the success of our work has been much hindered by politics of a selfish sentimentality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 664.

M. Coutouly to M. Schmidt.

Philippopoli, le 3 Mars, 1879.

Cher M. Schmidt,

PUISQUE vous croyez vraiment à l'utilité pratique du voyage que vous projetez, je ne veux pas prendre sur moi de vous déconseiller de le faire, bien que pour ma part je ne puisse absolument pas partager vos illusions, et que je ne tienne pas comme d'autres à provoquer de nouveaux incidents plus ou moins désagréables, dans le but unique de se procurer matière à protestations. Mais je veux au moins pour l'acquit de ma conscience vous dire extra-officiellement et en ami, que d'après moi vous auriez tort de partir sans y avoir été encouragé par la Commission, ou tout au moins sans l'avoir prévenue officiellement aussi, et avec une certaine solemnité, annoncer votre départ à l'autorité Russe, faire connaître votre itinéraire, et réclamer des mesures propres à empêcher toute manifestation populaire, toute résistance quelconque.

Je sais que si parmi les Commissaires il en est qui désirent encore aujourd'hui à la dernière heure et malgré des expériences concluantes pousser les choses à l'extrême, peut-être avec l'espoir de rendre impossible un arrangement à l'amiable, il en est qui de plus en plus, soit parce qu'ils sont découragés, soit pour d'autres raisons, désirent prendre une attitude conciliante, et même effacée. Ceux-là rejetteraient toute la responsabilité sur vous, si vous partiez sans avoir consulté la Commission, et s'il arrivait quelque chose.

A bon entendeur salut. Spectateur résigné d'un lamentable avortement, je vois les choses telles qu'elles sont, et je sais ce que je veux dire.

(Signé) G. DE COUTOULY.

No. 665.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 99.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 6*, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 84 of the 22nd February, I inclosed to your Lordship a copy of a letter from the Governor-General to the Committee of Finance, detailing the sums to be handed over to us in what was called the reserved Chest. Although this letter was addressed to us with considerable solemnity, as bringing to a close a correspondence carried on with some animation for four months, the letter contained errors of account to the amount of some thousands of roubles.

Your Lordship will see a letter in our 41st Protocol correcting these errors. Our 40th Protocol, on account of its great length, is not yet ready.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of all that has been given to us by way of an account of the reserved Chest.

In order to supply the defects in these accounts I yesterday moved that the President be charged to apply to the Governor-General for the information contained in Inclosure No. 2. This proposal was accepted.

The Governor of Slivno is still committing great irregularities. He is ordering the local cashier to make payments without any reference to the Commission or the Committee of Finance, and he is prohibiting the payment into our hands of certain sums due to us. In short, I entirely despair of the Commission obtaining a complete hold of the finances, before the evacuation, and my protests and declarations are made in self-defence and with a view to protecting the finances of the province from certain important liabilities.

I trust we shall be able to diminish the demand for the occupation and to establish our freedom from any possible responsibility or demand in respect of the Maréchal contract. A law suit, I believe, is still going on in this matter.

Your Lordship will recollect that, in a letter dated the 6th October, and signed by Prince Dondoukoff, it was declared that the number of sacks of cereals actually in store was 200,000. In this number there has proved to be a deficiency of about 70,000 sacks, and for this deficiency Messrs. Vagliano, the persons to whom M. Maréchal had assigned the contract, demanded, not the restitution of the money paid, but the delivery in kind.

A sum of £ T. 56,000 has been paid on this account, but, whether or not the action is settled I am not quite certain. As a curiosity I beg to inclose a copy of the receipt given by Prince Labanoff for this sum which was paid to him by Prince Tzeretelew on account of Prince Dondoukoff and endorsed to M. Maréchal and Messrs. Vagliano.

An action is also being brought against the Commission on account of our contract for the sale of the remaining dimes to M. Maréchal, the Russian authorities showing great delay in delivering the grain. I have not yet received the particulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 665.

M. Nekludoff to M. de Coutouly.

Monsieur, *Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Février*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-jointe une liste detaillée des sommes se trouvant à l'ex-caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli. En faisant cette liste, je me suis conformé au désir que M. de Kallay a bien voulu m'exprimer hier matin dans une entrevue particulière.

J'espère que cette fois les chiffres seront parfaitement exacts.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) P. NEKLUDOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 665.

Detailed Lists of the Amounts in the Reserved Chest of the Sandjak of Philippopolis.

Liste 1ère.—Montant de la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli au $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1879.

	Roubles or.	Roubles papier.
1. Revenus du Sandjak d'Andrinople	34,155 65	7,148 93
2. Revenus des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno qui restent en dehors de la Roumélie Orientale selon le Traité de Berlin	40,933 57	2,350 20
3. Pour secours: (*a*) aux émigrés Grecs et Bulgares ..	33,396 00	..
(*b*) Pour les habitants de Karlovo, Kalofer, Sopot, &c. ..	8,750 00	..
4. Pour la construction du pont sur la Maritza à Philippopoli	21,000 21	..
5. „ les écoles de Perustitza, Batak, &c.	500 00	..
6. „ l'entretien de l'école réale de Philippopoli ..	317 72½	..
7. „ frais d'équipement des gendarmes	361 50	..
8. „ l'entretien des médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli	267 25½	..
9. „ le même but dans le Gouvernment de Slivno ..	562 50	..
	140,254 41	9,499 13
10. Sommes provenant des revenus de Tirnovo et de Sistova et laissées par le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie pour l'entretien de la milice Bulgare qui alors faisait un avec la milice Rouméliote	33,369 80½	46,041 90½
Total roubles en or et en papier	229,156 25	

Liste 2ème.—Montant des Sommes qui, d'après la lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général du 5 Février, peuvent être versées au Comité des Finances à titre de dépôt.

	Roubles or.
1. Pour secours—	
(*a*) Aux émigrés Grecs et Bulgares	33,396 00
(*b*) Aux habitants de Karlovo, Kalofer, Sopot, &c.	8,750 00
2. Pour la construction du pont sur la Maritza à Philippopoli	21,000 21
3. „ les écoles de Perustitza, Batak, &c.	500 00
4. „ l'entretien de l'école réale de Philippopoli	317 72½
5. „ les frais d'équipement des gendarmes	361 50
6. „ l'entretien des médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli	267 25½
7. „ le même but dans le Gouvernement de Slivno	562 50
Total	65,155 19

Liste 3ème.—Montant des Sommes qui, ne provenant pas des Districts de la Roumélie Orientale, restent à la disposition de l'autorité locale Russe.

	Roubles or.	Roubles papier.
1. Sommes provenant du Sandjak d'Andrinople	34,155 65	7,148 93
2. Sommes provenant des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno qui ne font pas partie de la Roumélie Orientale d'après le Traité de Berlin	40,933 57	2,350 20
3. Sommes provenant des revenus de Tirnovo et de Sistovo et laissées par le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie pour l'entretien de la milice Bulgare qui était unie alors à la milice Roumélioto	33,369 80½	46,041 90½
Total	108,459 02½	55,541 03½

Liste 3.—Total roubles or et papier	164,000 06
Liste 2. „ „	65,155 19
Total	229,100 25

Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Février*, 1879.

Le Chef de la Chancellerie du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) P. NEKLUDOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 665.

Motion.

DEMANDEZ au Gouverneur-General :—

1. A titre de renseignement les entrées dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli provenant des revenus de la Roumélie Orientale, et les dépenses effectuées sur ces entrées avant le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre.

2. La solde exacte des sommes provenant de la Roumélie Orientale qui se trouvait dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre.

3. Le compte détaillé accompagné des pièces justificatives, des dépenses faites sur ces sommes après le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre.

4. Communication des Décrets en vertu desquels ces dépenses ont été effectuées.

5. Remise du solde actuel de la Caisse.

6. Communication des Décrets en vertu desquels des dépenses sur ce solde doivent être effectuées par l'Administration Financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

Inclosure 4 in No. 665.

Receipt.

Banque Impériale Ottomane.

REÇU de la Banque Impériale Ottomane la somme de £ T. 56,521 suivant lettre de son agence de Philippopoli du 21 Février, 1879. D'ordre de M. le Prince Tzeretelew, Consul-Général de Russie à Philippopoli, pour compte de M. le Commissaire Impérial de Russie en Bulgarie.

Fait double à Constantinople, le 26 Février, 1879.

Payez la somme ci-dessus à l'ordre de M. C. R. Maréchal, citoyen Français.

Péra, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Février*, 1879.

(Signé) PRINCE LOBANOW DOSTOWSKY.

Payez à l'ordre du M. Andrea A. Vagliano.

Constantinople, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Février*, 1879.

(Signé) C. R. MARÉCHAL.

Pour acquit :
(*Pro* Andrea A. Vagliano),
(Signé) (Signature illisible).

No. 666.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 8, 1879.

YESTERDAY the Exarch called on me with Mr. John E. Gueshoff to present him to me, in his capacity as member of a Bulgarian deputation about to proceed to the Capitals of the Powers which signed the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Gueshoff is a gentleman who, as your Lordship is aware, has taken a very active part in Bulgarian politics. He was the spokesman of the deputation which presented the first Bulgarian petition to the Commission, and he speaks English very well, having passed many years at Manchester.

This gentleman told me that the deputation was to consist, besides himself, of two others, one from Northern Bulgaria, the other from Macedonia.

He leaves this to-morrow for Tirnovo, where he is to meet his colleagues, and with them proceed, viâ Bucharest and Vienna to Paris and London.

They will probably return viâ Berlin, Rome, and Constantinople; but the principal object of their journey being to visit Paris and London, their return route will depend on circumstances.

The purpose of this deputation is, in the first place, to ask for the union of all Bulgaria. This the Exarch and M. Gueshoff said was a necessary preliminary. But the latter added that it was his desire to show to Europe how reasonable the Bulgarians could be. Their real prayer will be for a European Governor and a modification of the Balkan garrisons, which they say alarms the Bulgarians north and south of that range.

On leaving, the Exarch asked me to give M. Gueshoff a letter, as he called it, of identification to your Lordship.

This I promised to do, and I sent the Exarch, open for transmission to M. Gueshoff, the letter, copy of which is inclosed.

M. de Kallay and Baron de Ring both propose to give him letters of a similar character. M. de Braunschweig promised to write to his Government.

M. Gueshoff expects to arrive in London in about a fortnight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 666.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Philippopolis, March 7, 1879.

My Lord,

AT the request of his Beatitude the Exarch, I give this letter to Mr. John E. Gueshoff, who has been chosen to represent Eastern Roumelia in a Bulgarian deputation which is about to visit the capital of the States, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have told his Beatitude and M. Gueshoff that I can only give this letter as one of identification, and that having no instructions on the subject, I can offer no opinion as to the reception the deputation will meet with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 667.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 101.)

Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY met in the street M. Gueshoff. I asked him what was the meaning of his being accompanied by a Macedonian Deputy on his mission to the Powers, and whether the deputation was going on a Pan-Bulgarian expedition.

He replied that this was really not their intention. The Macedonian was going to urge on the Governments the reforms referred to in Article XXIII of the Treaty.

I told him I thought these were now being prepared.

He went on to say that both the Exarch and himself were against this more extended deputation. He had wished it to be a purely Eastern Roumeliote deputation, to show that the inhabitants of the province accepted the Treaty, and only asked Europe for modifications which would make it acceptable. Their view had, however, been overruled.

Prince Tzeretelew had told me the day before that his advice to the Bulgarians had been in this sense, and he regretted they had not followed it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 668.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 102.)

Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I OMITTED in my despatch No. 91 of the 1st instant to report a statement made by the Exarch, which I do not remember ever having before heard in so decided a form.

Talking of the Balkan garrisons, I asked him how, in their absence, the Bulgarians from the north could be prevented crossing the Balkans and proclaiming a union.

He replied that the Bulgarians, being a prudent people, they would never enter on a struggle with Turkey unless backed up by some stranger Power.

I remarked that we had seen Servia, which was in the same way infinitely weaker than Turkey, notwithstanding this, begin a war.

His Beatitude rejoined that Servia would never have begun the war had she not previously received from Russia the distinct assurance that, whatever happened, her existing territory should never be diminished.

Mr. Gueshoff, who was present, concurred in this statement as the declaration of an accepted fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 669.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 104.)

Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

M Lord,

GENERAL SIR COLLINGWOOD DICKSON arrived here on Thursday. The Governor-General, who was absent, had ordered some officers to receive Sir Collingwood, and a guard of honour was posted at the door of the Consulate, where he lodges.

Captain de Torcy, the French Military Attaché, who was already here, has had more than one conversation with General Dickson on the subject of the gendarmerie and militia. To-day the General had an interview with the Turkish Commissioners, and to-morrow he, with Captain de Torcy, is to have a conference with Colonel Schepelew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 670.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 105. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT CASTELLANE arrived here on Thursday from Constantinople by the same train as Lord Donoughmore and Sir Collingwood Dickson.

Baron Hirsch being an Austrian subject, M. de Castellane is obliged to address himself to M. de Kallay on most of his business.

He told him at once the Coutouly story, adding that both the Grand Vizier and Saïd Pasha favoured the idea, and that the former had invited Mr. Wallace, the "Times" Correspondent, as well as the Correspondent of the "Temps," to advocate the appointment in Europe.

As I learn from Lord Donoughmore that the story came to Constantinople from M. de Castellane, the original version, as well as the confirmation, rests very much on the veracity of that gentleman. But I have received other corroboration indirectly, both from some remarks of the Exarch and from some statements made to others by Greeks in the place, as well as a half admission by M. de Coutouly himself to Selim Effendi, the Turkish Secretary. The French, one after the other, have been ill, a circumstance I attribute very much to the false position in which they are placed.

M. de Ring did not come to the sitting yesterday, and M. de Coutouly has assumed a dejected aspect, and mutters words of despair whenever the labours of the Commission are mentioned.

Yesterday we passed the Chapter prepared by M. de Kallay in a short time, that gentleman having, with great dexterity, previously secured the acquiescence of both the Turks and Russians. This seems to have been a crowning injury to the French, who openly reproached the Commission with not having discussed the Chapter sufficiently.

It is very unfortunate that personal views should have so diminished in the Commission the influence of the French Delegates. Baron de Ring is not only accomplished as a diplomatist, but has a really profound knowledge of public law and administrative usages. M. de Coutouly is very able as a writer, and was of very great use in the drawing

up of Articles and amendments, which he did with great skill and clearness. But the influence of M. Fournier, their jealousy of M. de Kallay, and the desire to shine, seem to have overcome their better judgment.

I understand that petitions are being got up by the Bulgarians in favour of M. de Coutouly's nomination as Governor-General. I would venture to suggest that if by any possibility Her Majesty's Government were ever induced to assent to the appointment of a European Governor, on which subject I cannot offer an opinion, the original idea of the Russians should be insisted on, viz., that the Governor should be the subject of a neutral and non-signatory Power. Otherwise, by corrupting Turkish Ministers, the Russians might obtain the appointment of anyone they chose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 671.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 106. Secret.)
Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 100 of yesterday's date, I venture to offer in a somewhat extended form the suggestion made in my telegram No. 88. I make it under the impression that perhaps the Porte itself is desirous of calming the apprehensions of the Bulgarian population, and of re-entering on her dominion without disturbance. I gathered this from Mr. Malet's telegram to your Lordship of the 27th ultimo.

It is unnecessary, except for clearness, to recall to your Lordship the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. It is there laid down in Article XV—

"Sa Majesté le Sultan aura le droit de pourvoir à la défense des frontières de terre et de mer de la province, en élevant des fortifications sur ces frontières et en y entretenant des troupes."

Under this Article it is clear that Turkey has the right of occupying and fortifying Bourgas. Her so doing would not be unacceptable, I fancy, to the inhabitants of that town and district, where the great majority are Turks, and of Greeks who are in favour of the Turkish supremacy.

I would therefore suggest that the Porte, while maintaining her right to garrison and fortify the whole of the frontiers, should limit the exercise of it in the province itself to the sea frontier at Bourgas; that she should keep a considerable force at Adrianople, and about 5,000 men at Djumia, Mustapha-Pasha, and in the Rhodope; and that the garrisons bordering on the frontier should, in the first place, be accompanied by British officers and those of any other of the Signatory Powers that thought fit to send them.

On looking at the map it will appear that this distribution of troops would be one of great strategical strength. It would also be of use to the Porte as showing a conciliatory disposition, offer the advantage of economy, give her the absolute control of the sea entrance to the province, and concentrate her force in one place from whence she can at any moment occupy the line of the Balkans, instead of sprinkling it in several small and probably insufficient garrisons.

The economical benefit would be considerable. The expense of journeys would be saved; the troops, as well as their supplies, would be conveyed by sea; and the cost of erecting fortifications in the mountains would be spared. If Turkey keeps up several Balkan garrisons, it will be a long time before she will find money to build forts and barracks for them. Meanwhile, the supplying of them would be difficult and expensive, and might produce grave complications.

If Turkey, under the advice of Her Majesty's Government, accepted this view, it would be a concession on her part for which she should receive some compensation. It might be exacted that Rustem Pasha should not only be at once accepted by Russia, but that the Russians should also assist now at his installation. The Bulgarians, thus protected from the dangers against which Russia has prepared them, should lay down their arms, and the Russians should be called upon to withdraw many of their reserves in the Statute. It might, perhaps, also be well to establish for Turkey the right to construct a strategic line of railway at the foot of the Balkans.

I have mentioned this view to M. de Kallay and to Assim Pasha, who both see in it the possibility of an arrangement.

I have also submitted this despatch to General Sir Collingwood Dickson, who tells me that, from a military point of view, he approves highly of my suggestions. He says he looks on Bourgas as the key to the possession of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 672.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 107.)
Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 106, Secret, of this date, I have the honour of inclosing a copy of a letter which Sir Collingwood Dickson has been good enough to address to me on the subject of the suggestions made by me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 672.

General Sir C. Dickson to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Philippopolis, March 9, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to a conversation with you respecting the proposed suspension by the Turkish Government of the present occupation of the line of the Balkans for defensive purposes, I have the honour to state that I concur with your suggestion of the following alternative scheme, which, in my opinion, will give the Turks a strong military hold on the province of Eastern Roumelia, and will enable them at any time, if required, to occupy the Balkans and provide for the defence of the province against invasion.

I consider, therefore, that to meet this object, Bourgas should be strongly fortified and permanently garrisoned by 5,000 or 6,000 troops; the place can be easily provisioned and maintained by sea transport; and it may be considered, from a military point of view, the key of Eastern Roumelia, as the requisite force for the defence of the Balkan passes and frontier in that direction can be transported there by sea, and without the delays attending a land route. The Porte ought also to have conceded to it the right to construct a strategic line of railway from the Black Sea under the southern slopes of the Balkans, by which the Turkish troops could be conveyed to the selected points of defence along the frontier.

A Turkish force stationed at Djoumaïa, just outside the western boundary of the province, would be available to move forward for the protection of the frontier liable to be menaced from the side of Sophia.

It is presumed that a line of railway will some day be completed between Bourgas and Yamboli, which would still further facilitate the movement of troops towards the Balkans.

Adrianople being also fortified, and becoming, in case of need, the head-quarters of an army, the despatch of troops by rail through the province to Yamboli can be carried out, should it be necessary.

Adrianople and Bourgas are both points of great importance as barring the approach of an enemy towards Constantinople; and an army holding the country between them will have the advantage of a strong fortress on either flank, and if compelled to retire will fall back upon the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. DICKSON, *General,*
Military Attaché.

No. 673.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 9, 1879.

MY Turkish colleagues inform me that the Natchalnik, of the Nahié of Carajudágh, assembled the male inhabitants of sixty villages under his jurisdiction, took down their names and addresses, which he forced them to seal, and told them as soon as the Turkish troops came into the province they must at once take up arms to attack them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 674.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the first four Chapters of the Organic Statute, as adopted by the Commission. I also inclose copies of the ninth Chapter, which was passed yesterday.

I hope shortly to be able to send the fifth and sixth Chapters as adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 674.

CHAPITRE IX.—DES AUTORITÉS JUDICIAIRES.

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article I^er^. La justice est rendue en matière civile et en matière criminelle par les autorités suivantes:—

(1.) Les Chefs des communes rurales;
(2.) Les Juges de Canton;
(3.) Les Tribunaux de département;
(4.) La Cour d'Appel.

Art. 2. Il n'y a que deux degrés de juridiction.

Art. 3. La juridiction en Première Instance est exercée:

(1.) Par les six Tribunaux de département qui siégent aux chefs-lieux des six départements de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces Tribunaux de département se composent de deux sections: savoir, la section civile et la section criminelle;

(2.) Par les Juges de Canton, assistés de leurs Assesseurs;

(3.) Par les Chefs de Commune, assistés de leurs Assesseurs, dans toutes les communes rurales où il n'y a pas de Juge de Canton.

Art. 4. La juridiction en appel est dévolue aux Tribunaux de département et à la Cour d'Appel siégeant à Philippopoli.

Art 5. Dans la composition des autorités judiciaires il y a des Magistrats proprement dits et des Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires.

Art. 6. Sont Magistrats proprement dits ou Juges perpétuels:

(1.) Les Juges de Canton;
(2.) Les Présidents et les membres des Tribunaux de département;
(3.) Les Présidents et Conseillers de la Cour d'Appel;

Art. 7. Sont Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires:

(1.) Les Chefs de Commune ayant des fonctions judiciaires;
(2.) Les Assesseurs judiciaires du Chef de Commune.
(3.) Les Assesseurs des Juges de Canton;
(4.) Les Assesseurs des Tribunaux civils de département dans les questions commerciales.

Art. 8. Les Juges perpétuels sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général de la province et ils sont inamovibles, sauf le cas de destitution par jugement.

Les Juges temporaires sont nommés par la population et seront indéfiniment rééligibles.

Les Juges perpétuels ont un traitement régulier.

Les Juges temporaires reçoivent pour les audiences auxquelles ils ont pris part une indemnité fixée par les Conseils Généraux.

Les dispositions de détail sont fixées par le règlement provisoire (Annexe .)

Art 9. Sont incapables d'être élus Juges temporaires:

(1.) Ceux qui ne savent ni lire ni écrire;

(2.) Des domestiques et serviteurs à gages;

(3.) Ceux à qui l'exercice des droits civils, politiques, ou de famille a été interdit conformément à la Loi Pénale;

(4.) Des faillis non réhabilités;

(5.) Ceux qui sont en état d'accusation ou de contumace;

(6.) Ceux qui sont condamnés à des peines afflictives ou infamantes ou pour quelque délit commis par avidité de gain, ou pour tout autre délit emportant un emprisonnement d'une année.

Sont également exclus de l'élection les fonctionnaires publics, les militaires en activité de service.

Art. 10. Les Tribunaux ecclésiastiques, c'est-à-dire les Tribunaux du Chériat pour les Musulmans, et les autorités ecclésiastiques des autres cultes ayant fonctions judiciaires ne seront désormais compétents qu'en matière de questions relatives à l'état civil des personnes et du tutelle.

Toutes questions immobilières, d'héritage ou autres, qui étaient jusqu'ici de leur compétence seront à l'avenir du ressort des Tribunaux civils.

Art. 11. Auprès de chaque Tribunal statuant en matière criminelle il y a un fonctionnaire chargé du Ministère public.

Art. 12. Toute personne comparaissant devant le Tribunal, soit civil, soit criminel, a le droit de confier sa défense à un Conseil chargé de porter la parole pour elle, à moins qu'il ne s'agisse de répondre à un interrogatoire.

La partie étant présente, ce Conseil n'aura pas besoin d'exhiber de pouvoirs.

Art. 13. Les audiences sont publiques, et les jugements et arrêts rendus en audience publique, sauf le cas où, pour des motifs de moralité, le huis clos serait nécessaire.

Dans tous les cas où l'honneur et le crédit du plaignant l'exigeraient absolument, les Tribunaux peuvent ordonner la publication de l'extrait du jugement dans la principale feuille de la province aux frais de la partie condamnée.

Art. 14. Le témoignage, dans le cas où il est admis par la loi, sera reçu de toute personne, sans distinction de religion, sous serment prêté séance tenante et avant la déposition.

Art. 15. Les sentences pénales définitives seront exécutés par l'autorité administrative.

Aucun criminal condamné à mort ne pourra être exécuté sans que sa condamnation ne soit sanctionnée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 16. L'exécution des jugements civils est dévolue aux Tribunaux. Elle est progressivement mobilière, immobilière, et personnelle, sans distinction de religion et de position sociale.

L'exécution immobilière pourra porter sur toute espèce de propriété, aucun immeuble ne pouvant désormais être inaliénable.

Art. 17. L'exécution de tout jugement est suspendue, s'il y a appel, et l'appelant n'est pas tenu de fournir de sécurités, sauf le cas où l'exécution provisoire est permise par la loi ou prononcée par le Tribunal avec ou sans caution; et sans préjudice des mesures conservatoires que les parties demanderont ou que le Tribunal estimera nécessaires en matière civile aussi bien qu'en matière pénale.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—AUTORITÉS JUDICIAIRES CIVILES.

Art. 18. Connaissent de matière civile:—

(1.) Les Chefs de Commune, quand il s'agit d'actions mobilières dont l'objet ne dépasse pas 500 piastres;

(2.) Les Juges de Canton, quand il s'agit d'actions mobilières jusqu'à concurrence de 10,000 piastres, sauf les questions commerciales;

(3.) La section civile des Tribunaux de département, quand il s'agit de questions

mobilières, immobilières, et commerciales, sauf celles réservées aux Juges de Canton et aux Tribunaux ecclésiastiques.

(*a.*)—*Chef de Commune.*

Art. 19. Dans le cas prévu par l'Article 3, alinéa 3, le Chef de Commune a fonctions de Juge.

Il rend la justice gratuitement.

Art. 20. Le Chef de Commune n'exerce ces fonctions que pour les différends qui surgissent entre les membres de la communauté dont il est le Chef administratif.

Ces fonctions sont dévolues dans les communes indiquées dans l'Article 80 du Chapitre VI, à chacun des Chefs de communauté.

Art 21. Le Chef de Commune est assisté dans ses fonctions de Juge de deux Assesseurs qui ont voix consultative seulement; mais leur avis, que le Chef de Commune n'est pas obligé de suivre, devra être consigné dans la feuille d'audience qui contiendra la décision de ce dernier.

Art. 22. Les Conseils Municipaux des communes procéderont chaque année, à la majorité des voix, à l'élection des Assesseurs au nombre de quatre, qui seront de service, deux par deux, pendant six mois.

Art. 23. En cas de décès ou de révocation d'un Assesseur, les dits Conseils procéderont immédiatement à la nomination d'un remplaçant.

Art. 24. En cas d'empêchement légitime d'un Assesseur, il sera remplacé par un de ses collègues qui n'est pas de service dans le semestre.

Art. 25. Toutes plaintes quelconques, dirigées par le Chef de Commune ou toute autre personne contre les Assesseurs, relativement à l'exercice de leurs fonctions et, sauf le cas où elles pourraient donner lieu à une poursuite criminelle, seront portées devant le Conseil Municipal de la commune, qui en connaîtra, à la majorité des voix, et pourra prononcer une amende ou même la révocation de l'Assesseur.

Art. 26. Le Chef de Commune comme Juge connaît de toute affaire mobilière dont l'objet ne dépasse pas 500 piastres.

Pour toutes autres actions il se déclare incompétent et renvoie les parties à se pourvoir par devant l'autorité compétente.

Art. 27. Les jugements rendus par les Chefs de Commune ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(*b.*)—*Juge de Canton.*

Art. 28. Chaque canton est divisé en plusieurs circonscriptions judiciaires dont le nombre est déterminé par une loi provinciale.

Art. 29. Chacune de ces circonscriptions judiciaires est confiée à un Juge Cantonal.

Art. 30. Le Juge, qui doit être un Magistrat, est assisté par deux Assesseurs ayant voix consultative.

Art. 31. Les Assesseurs sont élus par les Conseils Municipaux de toutes les communes qui se trouvent situées dans la même circonscription judiciaire.

Art. 32. Le nombre de ces Assesseurs pour chaque circonscription judiciaire est de quatre avec deux suppléants, pour les remplacer en cas d'absence ou d'empêchement.

Art. 33 Toutes les règles établies pour les Assesseurs du Chef de Commune, sont applicables aux Assesseurs du Juge de Canton, avec la différence que les plaintes contre eux seront portées par devant la Commission Départementale.

Dans tous les autres cas graves le Juge pourra suspendre un Assesseur de ses fonctions et le faire provisoirement remplacer par un suppléant, jusqu'à la décision de la Commission Départementale.

Art. 34. Il y a auprès de chaque Juge de Canton un greffier Assesseur assermenté, chargé du dépôt des pièces sous sa responsabilité personnelle et de la rédaction des minutes.

Il est secondé dans ses fonctions par un personnel suffisant de commis-greffiers et d'huissiers. Le service de ces derniers pourra être rempli par des gendarmes.

Art. 35. Le Juge Cantonal connaît, sans appel, jusqu'à la valeur de 1,000 piastres, et, à charge d'appel, jusqu'à concurrence de 10,000 piastres, de toutes actions mobilières et personnelles.

L'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département dans lequel se trouve la circonscription judiciaire du Juge de Canton.

(*c.*)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 36. La section civile de chaque Tribunal de département est composée de trois membres perpétuels, dont un Président et deux Juges.

Art. 37. Il y a au Tribunal de département quatre Assesseurs et deux Assesseurs suppléants.

Ces Assesseurs, en nombre de deux, siégent seulement lorsque le Tribunal est saisi de questions commerciales.

Ils ont voix délibérative.

Art 38. Les Assesseurs sont choisis au commencement de chaque année, par le Conseil Général, parmi les négociants domiciliés au siége du Tribunal.

Les règles concernant les Assesseurs du Juge Cantonal, qui sont contenues à l'Article 34, leur sont également applicables.

Art. 39. La section civile des Tribunaux de département connaît de toutes actions à charge d'appel.

Art. 40. La procédure à suivre en matière civile par les Tribunaux de département est celle du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les règles fixées dans le présent Statut.

Art. 41. Il y a dans chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers et huissiers relevant de l'autorité du Président.

Art. 42. Pour tout ce qui concerne le service intérieur de la section civile des Tribunaux de département, on appliquera les règles tracées par le Titre IV de l'appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman, en tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les dispositions du présent Statut.

Art. 43. L'appel des jugements rendus par la section civile des Tribunaux de département est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

(B.)—Autorités Judiciaires Criminelles et Correctionnelles.

Art. 43. Connaissent de matière criminelle et correctionnelle :—
(1.) Les Chefs de Commune.
(2.) Les Juges de Canton.
(3.) Les Tribunaux de département.
(4.) La Cour d'Appel.

(*a.*)—*Chef de Commune.*

Art. 44. Les Chefs de Commune connaissent des contraventions de police, commises dans leur circonscription administrative, jusqu'à concurrence d'une condamnation de vingt-quatre heures ou d'une amende de 100 piastres.

Art. 45. Le Chef de Commune est chargé de la recherche et de la punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article précédent.

Art 46. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 47. Les arrêts du Chef de Commune ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(*b.*)—*Juge de Canton.*

Art. 48. Les fonctions du Juge du Canton en matière criminelle sont doubles :—

(1.) Il est Juge connaissant et rendant arrêt quand il s'agit de contraventions et de délits, dans tous les cas où la condamnation n'excède pas un mois de prison ou 100 piastres d'amende.

(2.) Il remplit les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction dans tous les cas où il s'agit de crimes ou délits comportant une condamnation excédant le maximum sus indiqué.

Art. 49. Dans les cas précisés par le premier alinéa de l'Article précédent qui viendront à sa connaissance, il procédera d'office à l'examen de l'affaire sans en donner avis au parquet du Tribunal du département.

Art. 50. Dans les cas indiqués dans le premier alinéa du même Article le prévenu ne peut être ni contraint par corps à comparaître ni emprisonné.

Art. 51. Dans les cas susmentionnés le Juge connaît également des dommages-intérêts de la partie civile, jusqu'à concurrence du montant auquel est limité sa compétence en matière civile.

Art. 52. Tous les arrêts du Juge de Canton en matière criminelle sont susceptibles d'appel.

L'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département où se trouve la circonscription de Juge.

(c.)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 53. La section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département est composée :—

(1.) De trois Juges perpétuels, l'un d'eux remplissant les fonctions de Président.

(2.) Du Procureur chargé du Ministère public; un ou plusieurs substituts Peuvent être adjoints au Procureur si le besoin s'en fait sentir.

(3.) D'un ou plusieurs Juges d'Instruction.

Art. 54. Il y a dans la section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers assermentés et de commis-greffiers.

Art. 55. Les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction sont remplies par les Juges de Canton et en cas d'insuffisance de ces derniers par les Juges d'Instruction attachés au Tribunal de département.

Art. 56. Sauf le cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction ne pourra procéder contre qui que ce soit sans autorisation préalable du Procureur.

Art. 57. En cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction et le Juge de Canton ayant fonctions de Juge d'Instruction procèdent d'office à l'arrestation du criminel, à l'inspection des lieux, et à tout autre acte judiciaire, sauf à en donner connaissance au Procureur dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 58. Peuvent procéder également les Chefs de Commune et les officiers et sous-officiers de la gendarmerie à l'arrestation de tout criminel en flagrant délit, sauf à en donner avis au Procureur du département, soit directement, soit par l'entremise de leurs préposés, dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 59. Sauf les cas prévus dans les précédents Articles, nul ne pourra être arrêté ou privé de sa liberté personnelle que sur un mandat d'arrêt délivré par le Procureur du departement ou par un Juge d'Instruction procédant en son nom.

Art. 60. Le Juge d'Instruction peut lancer des mandats d'amener ou d'arrêter contre toute personne dont la comparution ou l'arrestation devient nécessaire pendant le cours de l'instruction qui lui a été ordonnée par le réquisitoire du Procureur.

Art. 61. L'instruction achevée, le Juge d'Instruction adresse son rapport au Procureur.

Art. 62. Le Procureur dresse l'acte d'accusation d'après le rapport du Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 63. Le Tribunal prononce son arrêt, ouï l'accusé, la partie civile, et le Ministère public.

Art. 64. Tout arrêt du Tribunal est susceptible d'appel qui est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 65. Ont droit de faire appel de condamné, la partie civile et le Ministère public.

(C.)—Cour d'Appel.

Art. 66. La Cour d'Appel est divisée en deux sections, à savoir : la section civile et la section criminelle.

Art. 67. La première section est subdivisée en trois Chambres :—

(1.) La Chambre des causes en matière immobilière;

(2.) La Chambre des causes en matière mobilière;

(3.) La Chambre des causes en matière commerciale.

Art. 68. La seconde section est subdivisée en deux Chambres :—

(1.) La Chambre criminelle;

(2.) La Chambre correctionnelle.

Art. 69. Le Président de la Première Chambre de chaque section a le titre de Premier Président et les autres celui de Deuxième Président.

Art. 70. Le Premier Président a la gestion et la direction interne de sa section.

Art. 71. Chaque Chambre est composée du Président, de quatre Juges perpétuels qui ont le titre de Conseillers, et d'un personnel suffisant de greffiers et d'huissiers.

Art. 72. Le service interne de chaque Chambre est réglé d'après les dispositions du Titre IV de l'appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman.

Art. 73. Tous les fonctionnaires de la Cour d'Appel, commis-greffiers compris, sont assermentés.

Art. 74. On entend par sections réunies la réunion des cinq Présidents de la Cour et d'un Conseiller de la Première Chambre de chaque section.

Les sections réunies sont convoquées et présidées par le Président de la première Chambre de la première section.

Art. 75. La réunion des sections aura lieu pour statuer sur les conflits de compétence qui pourraient surgir entre les différentes Chambres ou les Tribunaux inférieurs, ainsi que pour se prononcer sur les modifications ou réformes que pourrait nécessiter le service interne de la Cour et des Tribunaux.

Art. 76. Les sections réunies connaîtront également des plaintes contre tous Magistrats de la province, en tant que ces plaintes ne constitueront pas des délits ou des crimes du ressort de la justice répressive.

Art. 77. La réunion des sections a lieu quand elle est réclamée par le Président d'une des Chambres de la Cour ou par le Ministère public moyennant réquisitoire au Président de la première section.

(D).—Ministère Public.

Art. 78. Les fonctions du Ministère public sont remplies à la Cour d'Appel par un Procureur-Général.

Art. 79. Il y a deux substituts pour le service des audiences aux Chambres de la Cour et deux substituts pour le service de son parquet.

Art. 80. Les substituts affectés au service des Chambres auront le titre d'Avocats-Généraux.

Art. 81. Le Ministère public exerce l'action de la justice criminelle dans toute l'étendue de la province; il veille au maintien de l'ordre dans tous les Tribunaux, il a la surveillance de tous officiers de la police judiciaire.

Art. 82. En matière civile le Ministère public agit d'office toutes les fois qu'il s'agit de l'intérêt de la loi, surveille l'exécution des lois, des arrêts, des jugements, et poursuit cette exécution dans les dispositions qui intéressent l'ordre public.

Art. 83. Les substituts du Procureur-Général exercent identiquement les mêmes fonctions sous sa surveillance et sa direction.

Art. 84. Les Juges d'Appel ne seront nullement astreints à suivre dans leurs décisions l'avis émis par le Ministère public.

Ils feront droit à ses conclusions ou aux conclusions contraires de toute autre partie selon leur propre conviction.

Règlement Provisoire sur les Autorités Judiciaires.

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article Ier. Par dérogation provisoire au principe d'inamovabilité des Juges, tous les Magistrats qui n'ont pas de connaissances spéciales ne seront nommés que pour un terme de quatre ans; passé ce terme ils pourront être rendus inamovibles par un Décret du Gouverneur-Général rendu sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent et du Conseil Privé.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—Autorités Judiciaires Civiles.

(a.)—*Chef de Commune.*

Art. 2. Le Chef de Commune doit toujours se prêter aux constatations judiciaires pour lesquelles il est requis, même lorsqu'il s'agit d'une affaire qui n'est pas de sa compétence judiciaire. Il procédera à ces constatations avec le concours au moins d'un témoin et du greffier, et en dressera procès verbal dont il délivrera copie authentique à toute partie requérante.

Art. 3. Sur toute demande introductive d'instance qui est présentée au Chef de Commune, il appellera d'abord les parties en conciliation devant lui, et si elles ne comparaissent pas ou ne peuvent pas se concilier, il fixera le jour de la prochaine audience et donnera aux parties assignation d'y comparaître.

Art. 4. Le Chef de Commune devra tenir audience au moins une fois par semaine et les Assesseurs y seront convoqués.

Art. 5. Au jour de l'audience les causes seront affichées à tour de rôle et dans l'ordre de date des assignations.

Art. 6. Les parties seront obligées de fournir à la première audience tous leurs dires et moyens sous peine d'exclusion ; mais si l'une des parties allègue des motifs apparemment plausibles d'impossibilité de produire tous ses moyens, la cause sera remise à huitaine et les parties en seront informées séance tenante, sans nouvelle citation, ce dont il sera fait mention dans la feuille d'audience.

Art. 7. Si au jour d'audience indiqué par l'acte d'assignation ou convenu pour la remise, une des parties ne comparaît pas, le Chef de Commune accordera contre elle à la partie comparante le jugement par défaut.

Art. 8. Les règles de la procédure commerciale Ottomane concernant les jugements par défaut et l'opposition à ces jugements s'appliquent également aux jugements du Chef de Commune.

Art. 9. Si les deux parties font défaut la cause sera effacée du rôle et le demandeur ne pourra y revenir que par une nouvelle requête introductive d'instance.

Art. 10. Si au jour de l'audience les parties sont présentes on procédera d'abord à la lecture des actes, après quoi elles auront la parole. Le Chef de Commune pourra poser aux parties toutes les questions non tendancieuses qu'il croira convenables pour éclaircir la question, et il aura le devoir d'instruire les parties sur les droits que leur accorde le Statut et le présent règlement provisoire.

Art 11. Après que la cause aura été entendue, le Chef de Commune prononcera la clôture des débats et essaiera de nouveau, avec le concours des Assesseurs, de concilier les parties. Si tout arrangement est repoussé, le Chef de Commune, ouï les Assesseurs, rendra son jugement et le prononcera séance tenante.

Art. 12. Le Chef de Commune devra tenir un registre ou seront inscrites toutes les contestations qui lui seront soumises et les décisions y relatives.

Ce registre contiendra le nom des parties, l'objet du litige, la date de l'audience, un résumé des dires et moyens des parties, et des dépositions des témoins s'il y en a. Il renfermera en outre, s'il y a eu conciliation entre les parties, les termes de cet accord ; s'il n'y a pas eu conciliation, l'avis des Assesseurs et enfin la décision prononcée par le Chef de Commune.

Chaque page du registre devra porter la signature ou le sceau du Chef de Commune, des Assesseurs et du greffier.

Art. 13. Dans un délai de huit jours au plus tard à partir de la date de la publication du jugement, le Chef de Commune devra en notifier copie à chacune des parties contre reçu portant la date du jour de la notification.

(b.)—Juge de Canton.

Art. 14. Les Juges de Canton sont choisis par le Gouverneur-Général sur des listes dressées par les Conseils Généraux des départements en double du nombre des Juges nécessaires.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition de l'Administrateur-Général de la justice, fait les nominations sans être astreint à nommer les Juges de Canton dans le département ou ils ont été proposés.

Art. 15. Le Gouverneur-Général, pour la première année, aura le droit de fixer les circonscriptions judiciaires cantonales tant qu'elles n'auront pas été déterminées par une loi provinciale.

Art. 16. Le Juge de Canton connaîtra, conformément à l'Article 34 du Chapitre IX, de toutes actions mobilières et personnelles et en outre :—

(1.) De toutes actions entre propriétaires et preneurs.

(2.) Des actions pour dommages faits aux champs, fruits et récoltes, arbres, haies, fossés, canaux, maisons et autres propriétés, lorsque les droits de propriété ne sont pas contestés.

(3.) Des actions relatives aux constructions et aux travaux à faire sur un mur dont la mitoyenneté n'est pas contestée.

(4.) De toutes actions possessoires.

(5.) Des actions en dommages-intérêts pour cause d'injures, de diffamation, ou de voies de fait.

Art. 17. Les Juges de Canton tiendront audience autant de fois qu'il sera nécessaire dans la semaine, en tout cas, une fois au moins tous les huit jours.

Art. 18. La procédure devant le Juge de Canton sera la même que celle par devant le Chef de Commune, à l'exception de l'essai de conciliation qui sera fait une seule fois au début de l'audience.

Art. 19. Le délai pour interjeter appel contre les jugements rendus par le Juge de Canton est de quinze jours. Il sera formé par requête adressée au Juge de Canton lui-même, qui la transmettra dans les huit jours avec toutes les minutes au Tribunal d'Appel.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 20. L'un des Juges de la section civile de chaque Tribunal de département devra toujours être d'un membre du clergé Ottoman (naïb), dûment qualifié, et qui aura, outre les fonctions de Juge, l'attribution spéciale d'éclairer le Tribunal sur les dispositions des lois et de la jurisprudence Mussulmanes, du Chériat, toutes les fois que le Tribunal aura à examiner des questions immobilières régies par les lois et la jurisprudence susdites.

L'avis exprimé par le Juge spirituel sera inséré au procès-verbal des délibérations, quelque soit le résultat de ces dernières.

Art. 21. Les Tribunaux de département tiendront audience tous les jours de la semaine, exceptés les Vendredis et Dimanches.

Art. 22. Le Président du Tribunal fixera d'avance au moins un jour dans la semaine pour les audiences en matière commerciale et en donnera avis aux Assesseurs.

Art. 23. Lorsqu'il s'agira de questions régies par les lois et la jurisprudence ecclésiastique Musulmane (Cher'i-Cherif), portant surtout sur la validité des titres de propriété exhibés ou concernant des fondations pieuses (vacoufs), le Tribunal pourra, par analogie des Articles 39 et 40 du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, nommer une Commission chargée d'examiner les pièces, d'ouïr les parties, et d'exprimer ensuite son opinion dans un Rapport motivé au Tribunal, qui aura la faculté d'en adopter, modifier, rejeter les conclusions, ou de renvoyer par devant la même Commission pour des éclaircissements plus amples.

Art. 24. Ces Commissions seront toujours composées de cinq personnes dont trois élues par le Tribunal et deux désignées par les parties en cause. Le Naïb ou Juge Ecclésiastique, membre du Tribunal, présidera de droit à ces Commissions.

(d.)—Cour d'Appel.

Art. 25. Lors de la première organisation de la Cour d'Appel, il ne sera institué que les deux sections—la section civile et la section criminelle.

La Constitution des cinq Chambres n'aura lieu qu'au fur et à mesure qu'elle sera nécessitée par le nombre des affaires.

Art. 26. Pour chaque Chambre de la Cour d'Appel, et pour chaque Tribunal de département l'administrateur de la justice dresse une liste de candidats en triple nombre des Magistrats à nommer.

Le Comité Permanent a le droit de biffer le tiers des noms de chacune de ces listes.

Les nominations sont faites par le Gouverneur-Général parmi les noms restants.

(e.)—Procédure en Appel.

Art. 27. Dans les cas d'appel d'un jugement rendu par un Juge de Canton, le Président du Tribunal de département convoque deux ou quatre Juges des deux sections—civile et criminelle, et en forme le Tribunal d'Appel.

Les règles établies pour la Cour d'Appel sont appliquées aux Tribunaux de département agissant en qualité de Tribunaux d'Appel.

Art. 28. Les requêtes d'appel sont présentées au Président du Tribunal qui a rendu le jugement contre lequel est appel, et par lui transmises avec les minutes du jugement et autres pièces, s'il y en a, à la deuxième instance, dans un délai de quinze jours.

Art. 29. Ces requêtes devront contenir expressément, outre la désignation des

noms et qualités des parties, la déclaration de vouloir appeler du jugement dont on se croira grevé, et l'élection d'un domicile au siége du Tribunal d'Appel, à peine de nullité.

Art. 30. Le double de cette requête devra être notifié à l'intimé en même temps qu'aura lieu la transmission à l'instance supérieure.

Art. 31. Aussitôt que la Cour d'Appel ou un Tribunal de département recevra la transmission de la requête ou déclaration d'appel ainsi formée, ils devront immédiatement la faire enregistrer par le greffier sur un registre *ad hoc*, avec indication précise de la date de cet enregistrement, qui sera aussi mentionnée au dos de la requête.

Art 32. Dans les trente jours, à partir de la déclaration, l'appelant devra, sous peine de la déchéance, présenter ou faire présenter directement à la Cour d'Appel un mémoire d'appel en double relatant la date et le numéro de sa requête de déclaration d'appel, contenant ses conclusions motivées d'appel, et formulant la demande expresse que l'intimé soit assigné à comparaître à audience fixe pour la discussion de la cause.

Art. 33. Le Tribunal d'Appel notifiera le double de ce mémoire à l'intimé avec assignation de comparaître à audience fixe, par l'entremise du Tribunal de Première Instance dont le jugement est attaqué.

Il fera afficher le double de l'assignation à son parquet.

Au jour indiqué pour l'audience il procédera à l'examen de l'appel et il prononcera son arrêt même par défaut, sans être tenu de s'enquérir si l'intimé a reçu notification de l'assignation. Toute partie intimée aura le droit d'abréger le délai pour l'introduction de l'appel, aussitôt qu'il sera informé de la déclaration, en faisant diligence, et en demandant au Tribunal d'Appel de donner assignation à l'appelant de comparaître à audience fixe.

Art. 34. Sur la demande de l'intimé pour l'introduction de l'appel déclaré par l'appelant, il sera donné assignation à ce dernier de comparaître à audience fixe, et l'assignation sera simplement notifiée au domicile élu dans la déclaration d'appel.

Art. 35. Si aucune des parties ne comparaît à l'audience fixée par le Tribunal d'Appel, la cause sera effacée du rôle, sauf aux parties à l'introduire de nouveau s'il en est encore temps.

Art. 36. Après le délai de trente jours fixé à l'Article, si aucune des parties n'a pas introduit ou poursuivi l'appel à l'audience, la déclaration d'appel sera considérée non avenue et il y aura chose jugée.

Art. 37. La déchéance de l'appel sera constatée par simple attestation du Tribunal d'Appel toutes les fois que pendant trente jours à partir de la date de l'enregistrement de la requête de déclaration, l'appel n'a pas été introduit ou poursuivi à l'audience.

Art. 38. Les greffiers de la Cour d'Appel devront livrer des certificats à toutes parties qui les réclameraient, en les munissant du sceau du Tribunal et en les faisant contresigner par le Président.

Art. 39. Les autres règles de procédure mentionnées au cours du présent règlement, ainsi que celles du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, seront observées également par la Cour d'Appel.

(f.)—Règles Spéciales de Compétence.

Art. 40. En matière personnelle, le défendeur sera assigné devant le Tribunal de son domicile, s'il n'a pas de domicile devant le Tribunal de sa résidence; s'il y a plusieurs défendeurs, devant le Tribunal du domicile de l'un d'eux au choix des demandeurs.

En matière réelle devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet litigieux.

En matière de société, tant qu'elle existe, devant le Tribunal du lieu ou elle est établie.

En matière de succession, sur les demandes qui seraient introduites par des créanciers du défunt avant le partage, devant le Tribunal du lieu ou la succession est ouverte.

Art 41. En matière de garantie devant le Juge ou la demande originaire sera pendante.

Enfin devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet litigieux lorsqu'il s'agira des actions énumérées dans les alinéas un à cinq de l'Article 16 du présent Règlement.

(B.)—Autorités Judiciaires Criminelles et Correctionnelles.

(a.)—Chef de Commune.

Art. 42. Le Chef de Commune est chargé de la recherche et punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article du Chapitre IX.

Art. 43. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée, il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 44. Il fait comparaître devant lui l'inculpé et le plaignant, s'il y en a, et examine l'affaire.

Art. 45. Il est tenu de dresser procès-verbal sur le fait et l'examen de l'affaire, lequel contiendra les noms des personnes qui ont comparu devant lui, la nature du fait, et les temps et lieu où il a été commis.

Art. 46. Le fait étant dûment constaté, l'arrêt est prononcé immédiatement.

L'arrêt est inséré au procès-verbal.

Art. 47. Si la constatation du fait ne peut avoir lieu dans la première audience, le Chef de Commune fixe un jour pour l'examen ultérieur de l'affaire.

Ce procédé pourra être répété par deux fois.

Art. 48. Si trente jours après l'instruction de l'affaire par le Chef de Commune le fait commis n'est pas dûment constaté, ni l'arrêt prononcé la personne présumée coupable ne peut plus être poursuivie du fait de la contravention commise.

Art. 49. Cette prescription ne portera pas préjudice aux droits de la partie civile de réclamer des dommages-intérêts.

Art. 50. Les arrêts du Chef de Commune ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

Art. 51. Tout Chef de Commune qui aurait prononcé et exécuté contre quiconque une peine plus élevée que le maximum fixé par le Statut est passible d'une amende de 500 à 1,000 piastres outre les peines auxquelles il pourra être condamné si le fait est qualifié plus gravement par le Code Pénal.

Il doit être déclaré, en outre, déchu de ses fonctions à la première récidive.

Art. 52. Le Procureur du département qui est chargé spécialement de la surveillance des Chefs de Communes en leur qualité de Juges prononcera les peines mentionnées à l'Article précédent.

(b.)—Juge de Canton.

Art. 53. Dans les cas précisés par le premier alinéa de l'Article du Chapitre IX, le Juge de Canton procédera d'office aussitôt qu'il aura reçu connaissance, sans en donner avis ni au Tribunal ni au Procureur du département.

Art. 54. Il citera les personnes présumées coupables, ainsi que le plaignant et les témoins, moyennant simple mandat de comparaître.

Si le prévenu ne comparaît pas sur le mandat qui lui a été dûment signifié il est cité encore une fois avec sommation de comparaître; faute de quoi, il serait procédé par contumace.

Art. 55. Si à la seconde citation le prévenu fait défaut, le Juge procède par contumace et prononce l'Arrêt, toutes les constatations faites contre l'absent.

Art. 56. Si le prévenu comparaît et que le plaignant fasse défaut, il sera procédé également par défaut.

Art. 57. Le prévenu, ainsi que la partie civile, auront le droit de faire opposition à tout Arrêt rendu en leur absence.

Art. 58. L'opposition sera introduite par devant le même Juge qui a rendu l'Arrêt contre lequel l'opposition est formée, dans un délai de quinze jours, après notification de l'Arrêt.

Art. 59. L'opposition étant introduite le Juge fixe une nouvelle audience et cite les deux parties pour le jour fixé.

Art. 60. A la nouvelle audience, la partie qui fait opposition doit justifier par des motifs plausibles son défaut.

Art. 61. Si les motifs allégués ne sont pas de nature à prouver un empêchement réel de comparaître, l'opposition est rejetée et le premier Arrêt est confirmé.

Art. 62. Si au contraire ces motifs sont suffisants pour justifier le défaut, le Juge déclare le premier Arrêt nul et non avenu et recommence l'instruction de l'affaire.

Art. 63. Lorsque les deux parties sont présentes, il sera procédé à l'examen contradictoire de l'affaire; les témoins déposeront en présence des deux parties,

qui auront le droit de leur faire adresser par le Juge des questions qu'elles auront formulées elles-mêmes.

Art. 64. L'action est représentée par le plaignant au préjudice duquel le fait a été commis et qui se constitue partie civile, ou par le fonctionnaire, ou par l'officier de l'autorité qui a dénoncé le cas au Juge.

Art. 65. S'il devient nécessaire d'inspecter les lieux, le Juge, assisté de son greffier, s'y transportera.

Les parties peuvent assister à l'inspection.

Art. 66. L'Arrêt est prononcé séance tenante.

Copie de l'Arrêt est délivrée aux parties.

Art. 67. Le délai pour interjeter appel est de quinze jours après notification de l'Arrêt.

Ce délai porte déchéance.

Art. 68. Tous les actes d'appel, même ceux qui sont hors de délai, seront soumis par le Juge au Tribunal d'Appel dans le délai de huit jours.

Art. 69. Lorsque l'Arrêt prononcé aura acquis force de loi, le Juge procédera d'office à l'exécution.

Pour ce qui est des dommages-intérêts à payer à la partie civile, c'est elle qui en demandera l'exécution.

Art. 70. Le Juge de Canton tient un registre séparé sur lequel seront portés tous les Arrêts en matière correctionnelle sommairement avec la date de la publication, de l'appel, et de l'exécution.

Art. 71. Copie de ce registre est envoyée chaque mois au Procureur du département.

Art. 72. Les condamnés sont écroués dans la prison communale de la résidence du Juge qui est tenu de la visiter au moins une fois par mois, d'en surveiller l'aménagement, et de contrôler les registres d'entrée et de sortie des prisonniers.

La garde en est confiée à la gendarmerie.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 73. Toutes dénonciations de crimes ou délits commis dans le département seront reçues par le Procureur.

Il recevra également toutes les plaintes, portées en forme de requêtes adressées au Tribunal en matière criminelle ou correctionnelle, sans que le Tribunal les soumette à un examen préalable quelconque.

Art. 74. Tous les fonctionnaires administratifs ou judiciaires du département, nommément les Chefs de Communes et les officiers de la gendarmerie, sont tenus sous leur responsabilité personnelle de donner immédiatement avis au Procureur de tout crime ou délit dont ils auront acquis connaissance.

Art. 75. Dès qu'une dénonciation quelconque sera parvenue au Procureur, il la transmettra, s'il y a lieu de procéder, au Juge d'Instruction avec réquisitoire d'amener ou arrêter le prévenu, de procéder à l'inspection des lieux ou du corps du délit, ou à tout autre acte d'instruction nécessaire.

Art. 76. Dans tous les cas graves le Procureur se rend personnellement sur les lieux accompagné d'un greffier. Il peut y déléguer également son substitut.

Il est accompagné, en outre, du Juge d'Instruction qui contresigne le procès verbal.

Art. 77. Le Juge d'Instruction est libre d'instruire l'affaire qui lui est déférée d'après la manière qui lui semble la plus efficace et la plus prompte.

Art. 78. Au Rapport qu'il adressera au Procureur après avoir terminé l'instruction seront annexées les minutes des procès verbaux, dressés pendant le cours de l'instruction et toutes autres pièces y relatives, ainsi que tous les objets et papiers saisis.

Art. 79. Le Procureur veillera à ce que ce Rapport lui soit soumis à temps par le Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 80. Une ordonnance de non-lieu ne peut être délivrée que par le Procureur ou le Tribunal.

Art. 81. Lorsque le Procureur aura trouvé dans le matériel de l'instruction des motifs pour formuler un acte d'accusation, il le soumettra au Tribunal.

Art. 82. Le Tribunal fixe le jour de l'audience.

Art. 83. Seront cités à comparaître à l'audience l'accusé, la partie civile, les témoins, et les experts, s'il y en a.

Art. 84. A l'audience le Procureur donne lecture de son acte d'accusation.

Art. 85. Lecture est donnée également du Rapport du Juge d'Instruction et des pièces y annexées.

Art. 86. Le Juge, présidant le Tribunal, fait subir d'abord un interrogatoire à l'accusé et interroge ensuite les témoins.

Les autres Juges ainsi que le Procureur ont le droit de poser des questions à l'accusé et aux témoins.

L'accusé ou son Conseil peuvent également questionner les témoins.

Art. 87. Les témoins prêtent serment à l'audience.

Art. 88. A la suite des dispositions des témoins des dires auxquels elles auront donné lieu, la partie civile et le Procureur développeront les moyens qui appuient l'accusation.

L'accusé et son Conseil pourront leur répondre.

La réplique sera permise à la partie civile et au Procureur, mais l'accusé et son Conseil auront toujours la parole les derniers.

Art. 89. Le Tribunal prononce la clôture des débats et se retire pour délibérer.

Art. 90. La délibération est secrète et l'Arrêt est rendu à la majorité des voix.

Il est publié séance tenante.

(d.)—Procédure en Appel.

Art. 91. La procédure en appel est la même que celle suivie par les Tribunaux de département.

Art. 92. Tous les actes d'appel seront soumis d'abord au Procureur-Général qui les examine et les soumet ensuite à la Cour avec ces conclusions.

Art. 93. La Cour fixe l'audience et cite ou fait amener toutes les personnes qui étaient présentes à l'audience du Tribunal de Première Instance.

La Cour, sur la proposition du Ministère public ou de la défense, peut renvoyer l'affaire au Tribunal de Première Instance pour compléter l'instruction, en fixant un terme à cet effet.

(e.)—Taxes Judiciaires.

Art. 94. Les droits et taxes judiciaires seront réglés par un Tarif spécial, qui sera affiché dans chaque Tribunal.

Jusqu'à promulgation du nouveaux Tarif les taxes perçues actuellement continueront à être prélevées.

Les greffiers sont chargés de la perception.

No. 675.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 221.)

My Lord, *Pera, March 11, 1879.*

IN the audience which I had the honour to have of the Sultan on the 8th instant, His Majesty, after many inquiries respecting the health of the Queen and Her Majesty's proposed journey to Italy, in the course of which he expressed the hope that some day Her Majesty would extend her travels to the East, said he desired to speak to me concerning the prospects in Eastern Roumelia. His Majesty foresaw that the occupation of the Balkans would place his troops in a dangerous position; they would be liable to attack from the Principality of Bulgaria on the one side, and from the province of Eastern Roumelia on the other, and if, as would be necessary, they moved in one direction or the other, he should be accused of violating the Treaty of Berlin. I replied that all States were liable at times to have the unpleasant duty thrust upon them of subduing rebellion, and if, in the execution of this duty, His Majesty's Government was forced to have recourse to arms, His Majesty would not be blamed provided precautions were taken that the military measures were taken without needless severity. I said it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government, in the event of the necessity arising, to request His Majesty's Government to allow English officers of high rank to accompany the Imperial forces. I also said that Her Majesty's Government advised His Majesty not to appoint an European Governor, that such a nomination might be taken as admitting the principle that the Governor was always to be European. Moreover, that His Majesty would have to choose among subjects of the smaller Powers, as those of any Signatory Power would not be

tolerated by the rest, and that these smaller Powers had no class of civil servants accustomed to govern aliens. His Majesty said that this view exactly coincided with his own, and that it gave him great satisfaction to learn that Her Majesty's Government entertained it.

I proceeded to inform His Majesty that Her Majesty's Government had authorized me to say that they had informed the Greek and French Governments that they were unable to recommend to the Porte to cede Janina to Greece. His Majesty begged me to say that he was very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for this communication, and, in reply to a question from me, stated that instructions had not yet been sent to Moukhtar Pasha, on which I urged that it was of the greatest importance that they should be sent without delay.

I took an opportunity to press upon His Majesty, as strongly as possible, the necessity for Turkey of concluding the Convention with Austria. I ventured to say that there were only two of the Great Powers upon whose assistance His Majesty could absolutely count. These were Great Britain, of which His Majesty was, I felt sure, thoroughly aware; and, secondly, Austria, if the Convention were concluded; that Her Majesty's Government would not recommend the Convention unless they were convinced that its conclusion were beneficial to Turkey, but that there was reason to fear that if negotiations were broken off, the rupture might speedily be succeeded by a complete change in the policy of Austria towards the Porte. His Majesty listened, but replied that Austria demanded everything, and conceded nothing.

At the conclusion of the interview His Majesty spoke earnestly upon the financial situation, and said that, if Her Majesty's Government would be of assistance in any way, he could promise that it would be of the greatest advantage to the relations of the two countries, and to the benefit of British interests in Turkey. I replied that, at the instance of the Grand Vizier, I had stated the earnest desire of his Highness for the nomination of the Commissioners.

His Majesty requested me, in addition, to transmit to Her Majesty's Government his own message by telegraph, which I accordingly had the honour to do on the 8th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 676.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 11, 1879.*

IN a conversation which I had with General Baker Pasha on the 9th instant, I found that he took a very discouraging view of the military situation, in consequence of the incapacity and stubborn character of the Minister of War, Ghazi Osman Pasha.

He said that, under his administration, everything is being allowed to drift; he appears to have no power of organization, and allows all appeals and complaints to remain unanswered.

Your Lordship is aware that about three weeks ago the Grand Vizier summoned the foreign officers of gendarmerie, and announced to them that the moment had arrived for the utilization of their services, and that they were to hold themselves in readiness. He appointed a committee of eight officers, Turkish and foreign, with General Baker Pasha at its head, to organize the corps, and it was hoped that at length a force would be brought into existence which would be of valuable assistance to the re-establishment of order in the provinces. It appears, however, that the Minister of War immediately set to work to organize the corps himself, without reference to the Committee appointed by the Grand Vizier. He ordered men to be taken from the Redifs, which measure in itself defeated one of the principal points in view in the formation of the corps, as it excluded the Christian element, Redifs being soldiers of eight years' standing, and all Mussulmans.

General Baker laid the matter before Hairredin Pasha, and I communicated on the subject with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The result was recriminations between the Grand Vizier and Ghazi Osman, but the latter has so far carried his point that he has now sent off 160 men to Adrianople, selected from the Redifs, without any organization for the duties they will be called upon to fulfil. The Committee has, in consequence, protested unanimously, and has thrown the responsibility of the result of the despatch of this force upon the Minister of War. He has, in fact, absolutely disobeyed the Grand Vizier, who ordered that the force should be selected from the regular army, and not from

the Redifs, whose term of service is constantly expiring. In discussing the matter with General Baker, the Grand Vizier showed much warmth, and, speaking of the difficulties and incapacity which he encountered at every turn, he exclaimed, "It is a lost Empire."

Unfortunately, the Minister of War stands high in the estimation of the Sultan, who considers that his safety depends upon him; and it is supposed that Saïd Pasha would assist him in becoming Grand Vizier if, as is generally surmised, Hairredin Pasha falls from power when the failure of the de Tocqueville Convention becomes patent.

General Baker is apprehensive that if Ghazi Osman remains Minister of War, there will be no force available for the work to be done in Eastern Roumelia, supposing the inhabitants carry out their present intention, and resist the restoration of the authority of the Sultan by force of arms. He informs me that battalions are not 300 strong, and that there is no transport service available. He believes that, at this moment, there are not more than 50,000 men in this part of Turkey, including the garrison of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 677.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have this day addressed to his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, respecting the withdrawal of Her Majesty's naval forces below the Straits of the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 677.

Mr. Malet to Carathéodory Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, March 11, 1879.*

I HAVE been commanded by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that Her Majesty's naval forces, having performed the duty of protecting His Majesty's capital, have now been directed by Her Majesty's Government to retire below the Straits of the Dardanelles.

In making this communication, I am to express the hope that if at any time the presence of the fleet shall be necessary either in the Sea of Marmora or in the Black Sea, in order to maintain the Treaty of Berlin, His Imperial Majesty will not hesitate to summon it again, and I am to assure His Majesty that His Majesty may always confidently count upon the Queen's friendship and support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 678.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 12, 1879.*

I HAD on the 9th instant a visit from one of the principal Galata bankers, who informed me that the Porte was at the present moment in desperate straits for money; the Treasury was absolutely empty, and the Minister of Finance had applied to him for a loan of 200,000*l.* to go on with till the 14th, the date on which M. de Tocqueville is bound, under his Convention, to make the first instalment of the loan of 200,000,000 fr. He had, after considerable hesitation, consented to advance 150,000*l.*

The value of the paper currency which, up to a short time since, had maintained its position at about 460 paper piastres to 100 gold, has again resumed its downward rate. The Government had set apart monthly 100,000*l.* of general revenue and 50,000*l.* of

customs revenue for the purchase of the currency, and the confidence produced by the measure was sufficient at least to prevent a further fall, but the last monthly Return showed that faith, as usual, had not been kept. Instead of 100,000*l.* of revenue, only 80,000*l.* had been employed, and the 50,000*l.* from the customs did not figure in the account at all. The result is shown in the present quotation being over 480. After the conclusion of the de Tocqueville Convention, an announcement was made that about the middle of this month salaries would again be paid in coin. It is feared that when the suffering class of officials again find that their hopes are deceived, their discontent may take a more active form, and some apprehensions are felt for public tranquillity.

From Gallipoli I learn in a despatch, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, that the army contractors have refused to furnish supplies any longer unless they receive money, and that, in consequence, the troops have been without meat since Thursday last. It is but another sign of the general financial collapse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 678.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Malet.

Gallipoli, le 8 *Mars*, 1879.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'environ 1,500 autres soldats sont arrivés à Gallipoli, en deux fois, provenant de Volo et Salonique, pour avoir ici le réglement de leurs comptes, et être mis en liberté.

Ces soldats, ainsi que les 1,300 dont j'ai fait mention dans ma dépêche du 25 Février dernier, ne seront pas mis en liberté directement ici.

Retgeb Pacha, Commandeur-en-chef, vient de m'informer qu'ils seront embarqués d'ici pour Varna, attendu que la majeure partie d'entre eux appartiennent aux provinces de Routschouk, Schoumla, et Silistrie.

Hier les fournisseurs des vivres aux troupes ont adressé une lettre à Retgeb Pacha, pour l'informer qu'ils suspendront totalement les fournitures ici, à Kessan, Malgara, Charkeui, &c., s'ils ne reçoivent pas des fonds qui leur permettront de pouvoir continuer les fournitures. Déjà le fournisseur de la viande a suspendu les fournitures, et depuis Jeudi les troupes sont sans viande. Retgeb Pacha a télégraphié au Seraskier de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour l'envoi des fonds si l'on ne veut pas voir les troupes manquer de vivres.

L'orge pour les chevaux fait aussi totalement défaut

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 679.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 227.)

My Lord,

Pera, March 12, 1879.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 221 of the 11th instant that, in the audience which I had of the Sultan on the 8th instant, I had stated to His Majesty that Her Majesty's Government had informed the Governments of France and Greece that they could not recommend the cession of Janina.

I received on the 9th instant a private message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ask me whether by the word "Janina" Her Majesty's Government intends to indicate the town of Janina, the Sandjak of Janina, or Epirus generally; and I have had the honour to telegraph the question to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 680.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 230. Secret.)

My Lord,

Pera, March 13, 1879.

ON the 11th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph that I had learnt from Sir Alfred Sandison that secret negotiations were on foot for the cession of the Island of Crete to France.

Sir Alfred Sandison had this intelligence second-hand from a Cabinet Minister, his informant being a gentleman in whom he had entire confidence. This gentleman told him that, according to his information, the matter had been submitted to the Council on the 4th instant, and that the Ministers had taken a special oath of secrecy with regard to it. Said Pasha, the Minister of Justice, and Osman Pasha, the Minister of War, had opposed it; but the question had not been brought to a vote, and the negotiations still continued. After putting some further questions to Sir Alfred Sandison as to the credence to be attached to the two sources of his information, I telegraphed to your Lordship, and requested Sir Alfred to do his best to seek for confirmation of the news.

On the following day he saw Said Pasha, and brought the conversation to designs which France had some time ago been supposed to have had with regard to Rhodes; and he asked his Excellency whether he thought France still harboured the same intention. His Excellency replied that, as far as he knew, she did not; but before Sir Alfred left the room his Excellency asked him whether he meant Rhodes or another island, on which Sir Alfred, seeing that, although unwilling to give information, his Excellency was desirous to extract it, allowed the matter to drop by saying that he had mentioned no other island. In the meantime, his first informant, who had before told him that the proposal had arisen through the desperation of the Grand Vizier at obtaining no loan, said that the Minister who had first mentioned it to him said that France was, in consequence of the cession, to guarantee a loan; but that it had been suggested that France was to make over the island to Greece, retaining Souda Bay for herself.

In consequence of a telegram which I received yesterday from your Lordship, I went this morning to the Grand Vizier, and informed his Highness of the intelligence which I had received. I went on to say that if such a scheme were realized it would change the policy of England to Turkey, and that England would consider herself entitled to take compensation.

His Highness denied that there was the slightest truth in the report. I was, he said, aware that he had many enemies, and reports of this nature were fabricated for the purpose of injuring him. In talking the matter over—for I proceeded to give him the versions of the project which had come to my ears—his Highness said that naturally he and the Ministers had discussed many plans as to what might be done with the object of coming to an arrangement with Greece, and that one of these was the cession to it of the Island of Crete, instead of territory within the lines traced by the Congress of Berlin; that this discussion had been originated in the Ministry, and that France had never in any way made overtures to them on the subject. He asked me what I thought of such a plan. I replied that I thought it a bad one, and felt sure that Her Majesty's Government would not accede to it, for the possession of the island would certainly not stifle the aspirations of Greece for territorial extension on the continent, while it would make her considerably stronger, and thus give her ambition more chance of success.

His Highness begged me to believe that he could never have the intention of entering into dealings with France which must necessarily give umbrage to England. In his opinion, France and England should act together in their policy in the East, and, if they would do so, he foresaw a hope of still extricating the Empire from its difficulties. I answered that the Governments of England and France were entirely united in their Eastern policy; but that, unhappily, France was represented by an Ambassador who, though he honestly stated the views of his Government, immediately followed them by arguments to prove that they indicated an unsound policy. I desired nothing better than to act with M. Fournier, and if he would only conform to his instructions it would be easy for me to do so. With regard to the question which had brought me to his Highness, I had been extremely glad to hear his denial of any intention to cede Crete to France; and I said that now that I had delivered the message with which I was intrusted, and had consequently made clear to his Highness the catastrophe which such a policy would bring upon the Empire, I felt sure that there would be no need for me to revert to the subject.

I learn that a gentleman went yesterday to the French Ambassador and told him of the rumour which had been mentioned. His Excellency exhibited much temper; he called

his secretaries into the room, and said, "Gentlemen, do you know of what I am accused?" They all, of course, showed signs of incredulity and astonishment when they heard what was laid to M. Fournier's charge; but his Excellency observed that it was a very serious matter, and he exclaimed, "Is it possible that M. Waddington is negotiating it without my knowledge?"

I have thought right to mention this disclaimer of the second principal actor in the alleged negotiation. I do not feel that I can say that there has been no truth in the story. Denial was forced upon both the Grand Vizier and the Ambassador, and is not a test of the genuineness of the rumour. Under the circumstances I could not but bring the matter to your Lordship's notice; and having made the communication to the Grand Vizier, I feel that I am relieved from the responsibility of neglecting a precaution when such vast consequences may be at stake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 681.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1879.

ALEXANDRE CARATHÉODORY PASHA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me on Monday, the 10th instant, that he had sent instructions to the Turkish Commissioner at Tirnovo with regard to certain points in the draft of the Constitution which has been drawn up for the new Principality of Bulgaria.

These instructions were to the effect that the Porte objects to the 1st and 2nd Articles of the Constitution regarding the territory of the Principality. It holds that the territorial limits have been indicated for good in the Treaty of Berlin, and that the question of enlarging or contracting them should have no place in the Constitution. It desires also that the word "vassalité" which occurs should be cancelled, and that the State should be designated in the terms of the Treaty of Berlin as under the suzerainty of the Sultan.

His Excellency said that the 16th Article conferred the right on the Prince of making Treaties and Conventions. The Porte felt bound to oppose the word "Treaties." It would, however, consent to the Prince's right of making Conventions, provided a condition, that they be approved by the Sultan, were added.

Finally, his Excellency said that the 18th and 19th Articles were objectionable, as they involved the principle that the Princely title was hereditary, which was not stated in the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency hoped that your Lordship would be good enough to instruct Her Majesty's Commissioner to support these objections, as he felt that the Turkish Commissioner, Pertew Effendi, would not be able to make them good, if he was to oppose them without the assistance of his English colleague.

I have given the objections and the Articles as they were stated to me by the Minister, though the order and contents of the latter do not quite tally with those in Mr. Palgrave's summary or in the "Times" newspaper. For instance, in both of these the hereditary principle is laid down in the 3rd Article, and the word "Treaties" does not appear in the 16th Article.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 682.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

ON the 8th instant, I telegraphed to your Lordship to say that I was anxious about the Christian prisoners at Marash and Aleppo, some of whom were dead and the rest in a deplorable condition.

Your Lordship is aware that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have both informed me that the Vali of Aleppo has been dismissed. I regret to learn, however, that the Iradé of the Sultan, which is necessary to confirm the Decree of the

Ministry, has not yet been issued. I propose to speak to His Majesty on the subject this evening, when I have the honour of dining at the Palace.

With a view to saving the unfortunate prisoners, it is advisable that the Commission, consisting of a Mussulman and an Armenian, which has been appointed, should start at once. But, as it was in contemplation that this Commission should examine into the wants of the Armenian nation from Aleppo to Diarbekir and provide for reforms, I feared that the instructions would meet with the same fate as those which have befallen the Report regarding the special Commissions to be instituted under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, as mentioned in my despatch No. 211 of the 7th March, and I therefore asked your Lordship's permission to suggest that the duties of the Commission to Aleppo shall be restricted to the measures necessary for the pacification of the district of Zeitoun and the trial of the prisoners, and that the reorganization of the provinces should be submitted to Special Commissioners, similar to those which will be established under Article XXIII.

The French Ambassador, who has, from the beginning, warmly advocated the cause of the Christians in those parts, approved of the suggestion, and expressed his willingness to act with me, and to make an identic representation if I desired it. I thanked his Excellency, and said that I did not desire an identic communication, as I considered that by the Convention of the 4th June, Her Majesty's Government had acquired a paramount interest in Asia Minor, but that I should be very grateful to him if he would continue to support the cause which he had already taken up.

On the 8th instant, I received by telegraph the approval of your Lordship of the course I proposed to take, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the *note-verbale*, dated the 8th instant, which I, in consequence, addressed to the Porte.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that he cannot give me a definitive answer till the question has been settled in Council, but that he will do his best to hurry the departure of the Commissioners as much as possible.

The French Ambassador handed in a *note-verbale* of a similar character to mine on the day following that on which mine had been sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 682.

Mr. Malet to Caratheodory Pasha.

March 8, 1879.

HAVING communicated to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo that the prisoners at Marash and Aleppo could not be released, as a charge of burning Ottoman authorities alive had been made against them, I have received the following reply:—"The accusation that prisoners burnt Turkish authorities alive is absolutely false; my French and Italian colleagues authorize me to protest against such an unfounded accusation."

So many matters of more vital interest press upon the Porte that I fear that the history of these prisoners may be overlooked, and that the lives of numbers of them will be sacrificed by the delay in the departure of the Commission which is to inquire into the truth of the charges against them. There is an immediate and pressing need for the examination taking place. Ten of the prisoners have already died, and those who remain are in a deplorable condition. The country, and especially Zeitoun, is in a troubled state. The Vali of Aleppo has been dismissed. There is an immediate and pressing need for the presence of the Commission.

But with a view to the restoration of order, and the better administration of the country, the Porte has determined to make a very extended inquiry, and to redress grievances and introduce reforms. Instructions having so wide a scope must be prepared with great care, and will not be authorized before they have been carefully examined and approved by the Council of Ministers. They are of equal importance with those which have been prepared in compliance with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. I trust and believe that they will receive equal attention. But the Report of the Commission with regard to the reforms for Turkey in Europe is only now being printed, and has not yet been distributed among the Ministers. It is sanguine to say that it will have been approved by the Sultan in less than a month. If the same fate befalls the instructions of the Commission which is to go to Aleppo, I fear that the number of deaths among the prisoners, which is already considerable, may have largely increased, and the disturbed state of the country may have grown until its pacification has become much more difficult.

Under these circumstances I suggest that the Commission consisting of Mazhar Pasha and Nourian Effendi should be ordered to start immediately for Aleppo charged with the examination of the circumstances which led to the capture of the prisoners, and empowered to release them if they find them to be innocent. They should also be permitted to adopt temporary measures for the restoration of the tranquillity of the country. By thus limiting the duties of the Commission to immediate necessities, there will be a chance of saving the lives of the prisoners, if it is impossible to release them before the charges against them are proved or disproved.

As, however, the limitation of the scope of the duties of the Commission might, if misunderstood, cause grievous disappointment to populations who are yearning for the permanent redress of their grievances, I venture at the same time to propose that the system recommended by the Commission under Article XXIII should be applied to these populations with such modifications as local circumstances may require, in lieu of the Commissions of two persons as at present arranged.

I am authorized to take this step by Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 683.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 14, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to me on the 10th instant that he was quite of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it was unadvisable to name an European Governor for Eastern Roumelia, but he said that Rustem Pasha's fears had been so worked upon that it was not unlikely that at the last moment he might refuse to go. He had, therefore, been considering how it might be possible to replace him, and an idea had occurred which he had not mentioned to any one but me, that a member of one of the Hospodarial families of Roumania might be acceptable to the inhabitants of the province, and, being acquainted with their manners and customs, might make a good constitutional chief.

I have since informed his Excellency that your Lordship thought that such a nomination would be dangerous, as it would give an opportunity for a repetition of the Couza trick.

I have frequently spoken to Rustem Pasha, and I must confess that he seems a great deal more preoccupied with the prospect of his return to the Lebanon than of going to Eastern Roumelia. He informs me that he knows that M. Waddington will do all in his power to prevent his return, but that not only does he not propose to resign the post, but he intends to insist upon an investigation of his conduct if the Porte asks him to resign, and he proposes to demand the right to hold the appointment for the whole period for which it has to run. He is so eager on this subject that he speaks little about Eastern Roumelia, which he clearly hopes never to see.

The Grand Vizier said to me yesterday that he thought of providing Rustem Pasha with an Assistant-Governor in the person of Aleko Pasha, ex-Ambassador at Vienna; and that he had thought of this in considering what could be done to be agreeable to the Eastern Roumeliotes. Aleko Pasha belongs to a very high family of Bulgarian origin, and he is of the Orthodox religion. His Highness thought the nomination might have a reassuring effect. Count Zichy informs me that Aleko Pasha is, he thinks, a man of honour and trustworthy, but that it would be necessary to study his views before conferring the appointment on him. He believes, however, that his fidelity to the Porte could be counted upon.

The Grand Vizier went on to say that he thought the best plan with regard to Eastern Roumelia would be to occupy Bourgas in force, and to concentrate troops at two or three points on the southern and western frontier such as Djuma, the Rhodope, and Adrianople, leaving the question of the occupation of the Balkans for future consideration. This idea received my support, as it tallied with the plan submitted to the Porte by your Lordship's instructions as reported in my despatch No. 208 of the 6th instant. It was also in harmony with the views expressed to me by the Sultan, and I learn from Count Zichy that he, yesterday, in speaking to the Grand Vizier, advocated the same notion, and added, that he trusted that the Ottoman forces would be accompanied by Austrian officers as Commissioners.

His Highness concluded by saying that he had heard with anxiety that the Eastern Roumelian Commission proposed to remove their sittings to Constantinople before the conclusion of their labours. For his part he thought the Commission ought not to be allowed to leave Philippopolis until the new order of things was established: he held that the Commission should be a bridge between the departure of the Russians and the arrival of the Turks. If they left in April, the Bulgarians would be certain to say that they had frightened the Commision away, and would become more emboldened in their attitude of defiance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 684.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 237. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 14, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me on the 10th instant that the delay in the transmission of instructions to Moukhtar Pasha, Turkish Commissioner for the rectification of the Greek frontier, arose from a want of clearness in the last Iradé of the Sultan on the subject, which had been transmitted to the Minister. In this Iradé His Majesty had given his consent to the third line submitted for his consideration, but as more than one third line had been suggested, the Ministers did not feel they were warranted in acting on the Iradé without more precise instructions, and they had requested His Majesty to send them a more definite one.

The Grand Vizier informed me yesterday that the Sultan had, in conversation with his Ministers on the evening of the 11th instant, decided the line to be offered, and his Highness, having asked the mute who is usually in attendance to bring him the map, traced a line with his finger running by the Arta northwards to a point about parallel to Janina, and from there going straight down to the Gulf of Volo to a spot about midway between Armyro and Volo.

His Highness, who did not appear to be able to give the names of the exact places on the line, observed that it included more than half of the territory suggested at the Congress of Berlin, and that more could not be offered. I said that I had understood that His Majesty was prepared to cede territory in Thessaly nearly as far as the Peneus, and his Highness replied that he could not say what might not be given if the Powers insisted, but without such insistance Turkey would certainly give nothing but what was now proposed.

I received the impression that the Porte would hold fast to Albania, and would cede nothing more than the line shown to me by the Grand Vizier if Greece alone demanded it, but that, if the Powers intervened, the frontier of the Peneus might be obtained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 685.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 14, 1879.*

I HAD the honour, on the afternoon of the 11th instant, to receive your Lordship's telegram desiring me to inform the Sultan that Her Majesty's fleet had received orders to retire below the Dardanelles. As I was not able to go to the Sultan without previous permission, and as it was essential that His Majesty should be acquainted with the intelligence immediately, in consequence of a news telegram having already made it public, I instructed Sir Alfred Sandison to go at once to the Palace and inform the Sultan, and I wrote at the same time to the Porte the note of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch No. 234 of the 11th instant.

His Majesty received the information from Sir Alfred Sandison very graciously, expressed his deep obligations to the Queen, and his gratitude for Her Majesty's message. He added that he desired, before the Fleet quitted Turkish waters, to receive the Admiral and the principal officers of Her Majesty's fleet at a State dinner; and he proposed to send one of his Royal yachts to bring them up and take them back.

I have ventured to say to your Lordship that there are reasons which render this public demonstration of the good-will of the Sultan very desirable, and, therefore, I hoped that the Admiral would be able to accept the invitation.

The reason to which I alluded is that of late, especially since the departure of Sir Henry Layard, it has been freely said that His Majesty has taken England, her policy, and her Ambassador in aversion. There is no truth in these statements, and it will be useful to check them by such a public recognition of his obligations as will be given by His Majesty in entertaining the Admiral and officers of the fleet in State before they leave.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 686.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 239.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

OWING to an interruption in telegraphic communication between this and Adrianople, which has lasted for more than ten days, I have received no answers from Mr. Consul Calvert to the telegrams which I have sent him asking for information as to the progress of the evacuation. I was informed that my telegrams would go viâ Odessa, but I must suppose, as I have had no reply, that they have not reached their destination.

On the 9th instant I informed your Lordship by telegraph that Prince Labanoff, who had returned from Adrianople on the evening of the 7th, had given Count Zichy a satisfactory account of the manner in which the evacuation was proceeding, and had stated that it would be complete on the 20th instant. He had said that about 20,000 Bulgarians had already emigrated to Eastern Roumelia, and that about 60,000 would follow. It appears, however, from Mr. Consul Calvert's despatch of the 10th instant, which I received yesterday, and of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, that the emigration is less than was expected.

Caratheodory Pasha informed me, on the 10th, that the Minister of War was satisfied with the progress of the evacuation which was being seriously executed.

To-day I have received a telegram from Mr. Consul Blunt, at Larissa, saying that Djuma is to be evacuated immediately, and that the inhabitants are disposed to resist the reoccupation by the Ottoman authorities. I have communicated this intelligence to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with a view to his taking care that the suggestion of Mr. Blunt regarding the selection of troops and officers employed on this duty should not be neglected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

P.S.—I also inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Acting-Consul Calvert on the subject of the Russian evacuation, which has just reached me.

E. B. M.

Inclosure 1 in No. 686.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Adrianople, March* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish advanced guard, consisting of five battalions under the command of Rifaat Pasha, entered Adrianople yesterday afternoon, being two days later than originally fixed. The troops, leaving the railway station, marched to the sound of the bugle through the main street of the town to the courtyard of the Government konak, whence they were told off to the Mussulman houses where quarters had been asigned to them for the night. The streets on the line of march were thronged with spectators belonging to every community and class of the inhabitants. I did not observe the slightest sign even of latent displeasure on the part of anbody, nor has such been mentioned to me by others.

To-day two more battalions arrived, and three others are expected to-morrow. In the morning the troops who arrived yesterday were again assembled before the konak. Part

of the Russian garrison had already been drawn up there for the purpose of celebrating a farewell mass. Under the joint orders of General Skobeleff and Rifaat Pasha, the Russian guards at the public prison, and various points in and about the konak, were relieved by Turkish sentinels. The same process was then carried out at the various guard houses throughout the town. Squads of the corps of native police, formed by the Russian authorities, will assist the Turkish troops in the preservation of public peace until the withdrawal of General Skobeleff, and they will be further assisted in this duty by special constables who have been enrolled by the leading inhabitants of each quarter.

I may here mention that a Major of the Russian police, a Bulgarian, who was in charge of the public prison, has been placed under arrest by the Russian authorities for the following reason: About a week ago a Turk employed in the Russian transport service was attacked and killed on the road between Lulé-Bourgas and Haosa, and his draught oxen carried off, by a party of six Bulgarians. These did not molest some other waggoners, Christians, who accompanied the Turk. Three of the assassins were arrested and lodged in prison; but the Bulgarian Major took upon himself (as it appears) to allow them to escape.

The main body of the Turkish corps of occupation has to-day been quartered in the cantonments outside the town built, and until now occupied, by the Russian garrison. Detachments will be sent out to-morrow to the various rural districts.

General Todleben left this at the period already announced, that is, on the evening of the 6th instant. The Governor of Adrianople, General Molostvoff, and other Russian officials still remain at the konak, and will only quit it, and formally make over the civil administration to Réouf Pasha, on the final evacuation of the province, which will probably be in another three or four days.

As regards the emigration movement, I am enabled to give the following details of its progress up to the present moment:—

On the 4th instant, 12 railway waggons with emigrants from Ouzoun-Keupry passed Adrianople on their way to the Kayadjik-Hasskioï Station.

On the 6th instant, 25 waggons left the same place for the same destination.

On the 8th instant, there were 61 more waggons from Ouzoun-Keupry, 30 of which went on to Yeni-Zaghra and 31 to Tatar-Bazardjik.

To-day there arrived 16 waggons also from Ouzoun-Keupry, of which 5 will go to Tatar-Bazardjik and 11 to Hasskioï.

As the waggons carry the emigrants' baggage as well as themselves, the average number of persons in each waggon is probably not more than 20 to 25, so that the total number of emigrants, so far, may be roughly estimated at between 2,300 and 2,800 souls.

It will be observed that the whole of the above are from Ouzoun-Keupry. There can be no doubt, however, that the tendency to emigrate is most strongly developed in the Demotica district. I am informed by a trustworthy person, who was there some days ago, that it prevails among no less than thirty-five Christian (chiefly Greek) villages, and especially in the parts between the town of Demotica and the village of Sofulu. In some places it is true but a few families intend to leave, but in others, as at Sofulu and Saltiklas, the inhabitants have abandoned their homes in a body, and have transported themselves and all their portable effects to the railway station, where they only await the permission of the Russian authorities to move on. That permission appears to be, for some unknown reason, withheld as yet, although the Secretary and the Dragoman to the Russian Sub-Governor at Demotica (both Bulgarians) have actively promoted the movement.

The Greek inhabitants of Ortakioï and the neighbouring villages are likewise most impatient to leave, and they too are said to be encouraged to do so by the Russian authorities.

The occurrences which took place last spring and summer in all the places above referred to, as reported to me at the time, sufficiently explain and, in a certain sense, justify the panic that has seized the inhabitants. I am inclined to believe that, as a general rule, it is only shared by that section of the population which is really compromised and has reason to apprehend the consequences. I expressed a similar opinion with regard to the exodus of October last, and the same conclusion applies now as then, namely, that however regrettable the movement may be in some respects, it will at least have the advantage of serving as a safety valve to the animosity of the Mussulman inhabitants. I have on several occasions called notice to the discrimination shown by these in the exercise of their revenge, and knowing as they will that those Christians who have really injured their coreligionists have been forced to fly, they will, unless I am mistaken, deem it a not insufficient punishment that the offenders should have forfeited their homes, and, at any rate, will not be prone to visit the misdeeds of those offenders on their innocent neighbours.

The emigration movement has spread to the Kiyik and Yildirim quarters of Adrianople, inhabited chiefly by the lower classes of Bulgarians and Greeks, a large section of whom, once poor, have become comparatively rich by the pillage which prevailed during the first few weeks of the Russian occupation. The tendency to emigrate does not, among this class, seem to be actuated by fear, and is easily accounted for by the fact that they have less to lose by abandoning their homes than by being made to disgorge their plunder.

On the other hand, the movement is almost *nil* at Mustafa-Pasha (near the Roumelian border), the inhabitants of which town have, upon the whole, behaved well. A respectable Bulgarian inhabitant assured me some months ago (as I believe I reported at the time) that the emigration from that place would in consequence be very considerable. That prediction is, it appears, being verified, for I am told that only four families will leave the place.

It is a noteworthy circumstance that in some parts, at least, of Eastern Roumelia, a feeling adverse to further immigration seems to be springing up, for two Agents of the Bulgarian Committee at Slivno have just arrived here charged to confer with Réouf Pasha as to the means of arresting the movement, and to persuade the Bulgarian Bishop to use his influence to the same end.

The turbulent symptoms lately manifested here have now completely subsided. My impression is that they were, upon the whole, of a forced and unreal character, and brought into existence only by assiduous agitation among the ignorant classes, who now perceive, and are irritated at the foolish part they were made to play. There is no longer any talk of popular demonstrations, nor is there, as far as I can judge, reason to apprehend any further serious breach of the public peace, either here or in other parts of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT

Inclosure 2 in No. 686.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Adrianople was evacuated this morning by almost the whole of its remaining Russian infantry garrison, consisting of the infantry regiments of the 30th Division, and by those of the 16th Division, which last arrived here from the Demotica district two days ago. These two Divisions belong to the 4th Corps d'Armée (commanded by General Skobeleff), which will, with the 9th Corps, form the army of occupation in Eastern Roumelia. They were accompanied by most of their artillery, but no cavalry. They left by road, marching in the direction of Mustafi-Pasha.

Colonel Blunt informs me that detachments of Russian infantry, numbering from 50 to 100 men, were still at the principal railway-stations between Lulé-Bourgas and Adrianople the day before yesterday. They were probably left to guard the military and Commissariat stores awaiting transport. I believe that a Russian detachment also continues to occupy Demotica, jointly with the Turkish garrison, as a precautionary measure suggested by the late disorders there.

The only Russian troops now remaining at Adrianople are three infantry battalions and two cavalry regiments—hussars and Cossacks—with a field battery: together about 3,500 men. These form the reserve which, according to the plan agreed to by Réouf Pasha and General Todleben, will remain here, under the orders of General Skobeleff, to assist the Ottoman authorities in the maintenance of public tranquillity until the new administrative body is in full working order.

Although Réouf Pasha has informed me, in reply to my inquiry, that no precise date has yet been fixed for the transfer of the government of the province, the Russian Governor-General Molostvoff was heard to-day to mention that it has been fixed for Saturday, the 15th instant.

I learn from another well-informed source that General Skobeleff will, if nothing prevents, take his departure with the Russian reserve on the 16th instant. It is on that day, therefore, that the evacuation will, in all probability, be finally completed.

Two Turkish field batteries arrived to-day by rail, but there have been no further arrivals of Turkish infantry beyond the ten battalions already reported. No cavalry has come as yet.

I am informed by Colonel Blunt that the detachment of gendarmerie now here, under his command, consists of 160 men. Réouf Pasha has given the Colonel every possible assistance, and has placed at his disposal as many of the troops to perform police and gendarme duty as he may require. There are now, on and off duty, 2,000 soldiers under Colonel Blunt's orders.

I am happy to report that the public peace and the public mind here remain undisturbed. Colonel Blunt informs me that he visited every part of the town to-day, at the head of twenty-five gendarmes. Nothing could exceed the respect and apparent good-will shown them by every section of the inhabitants; the Bulgarians, he says, being certainly second to none in this respect.

The emigration movement continues, but it is unaccompanied by the panic and precipitation which characterized the exodus of last autumn. Instead of flying before the Turks and abandoning a great part of their live stock and bulky effects, as they did then, the emigrants now leave nothing behind but their immovable property, and take their departure in a leisurely manner, under the eyes of the newly-installed Ottoman authorities. In at least some instances, where a whole village is abandoned, it is set on fire by its departing inhabitants. On his journey from Constantinople, Colonel Blunt observed the village of Edelü, between Baba-Eski and Pavlo-Kioï, so treated.

Notwithstanding the assurance given to the Consular body by General Skobeleff of a contrary intention, the Russian authorities facilitate the exodus by granting the emigrants free railway passes for themselves and their property, including cattle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 687.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 240.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

I HAVE communicated to the Porte the following intelligence, which reached me last night by telegraph from Consul Blunt:—

"Russian troops about to evacuate district of Djuma, in north of Macedonia, and Bulgarian inhabitants there have determined to oppose entry of Ottoman authorities. Ottoman troops going there should be commanded by able and prudent generals, as this district was the chief centre of late Bulgarian insurrectionary movement in that province."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 688.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 241.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, I pressed upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 10th instant the conclusion of the Austrian Convention as urgently as possible. I had previously spoken in the same sense to the Sultan, as reported in my despatch No. 221 of the 11th instant. His Excellency informed me very confidentially that the delay now occurring was owing to an order having come from the Sultan to stop the negotiations for the present. His Majesty had been unluckily persuaded that his Plenipotentiaries were yielding too much. His Excellency hoped, however, to receive an order to recommence his labours immediately, and he said he thought that he should be able to bring them to a satisfactory termination. The Grand Vizier spoke to me in the same sense yesterday, and I have to-day been able to inform your Lordship by telegraph that the Iradé for the resumption of the negotiations has been issued.

I have lost no opportunity to endeavour to convince all the Ministers with whom I have conversed of the absolute necessity for the conclusion of the Convention, and I have made use of the opinion of Sir H. Elliot, whose memory is so much respected here, to induce them to withdraw the distrust with which they look upon Austrian policy.

I regret to say that I fear the Convention does not receive the same support from the French Ambassador, who, I have reason to fear, has nourished the mistrust of the Turks rather than attempted to allay it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 689.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, forwarding a petition which has been addressed to your Lordship by the members of the Albanian League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which has just reached me from Prevesa, protesting against the cession to Greece of Prevesa, Arta, or Janina.

E. B. M.

Inclosure 1 in No. 689.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, March 3, 1879.

Sir,

A DEPUTATION, consisting of four members of the Albanian League, two of whom were the Cadi of Prevesa and Vessel Bey, brother of Abedin Bey, called at this Vice-Consulate yesterday morning, and handed to me, under flying seal, a petition addressed by them and their colleagues to the Marquis of Salisbury, and which I have now the honour to transmit herewith for transmission to his Lordship.

The above deputation also informed me that a similar petition has been addressed to the Consuls of the other Great Powers for transmission to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 689.

Petition addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Preveza, le 28 *Février*, 1879.

Excellence,

NOUS Soussignés, Délégués de toute la nation Albanaise, avons eu l'honneur, par votre télégramme en date du 28 Janvier dernier, d'attirer l'attention de son Excellence sur la triste situation qui serait faite à l'Albanie par l'annexion d'une partie de son territoire à la Grèce, et nous prions son Excellence d'éviter à notre pays un morcellement, d'autant préjudiciable, qu'il nous forcerait à l'empêcher en ne reculant devant les moyens que nous dicterait même le désespoir!

Une copie du télégramme susmentionné a été en même temps envoyée au Représentant du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople.

Nous venons aujourd'hui, tout en renouvelant à son Excellence la ferme résolution de tous les Albanais, de ne s'épargner aucun sacrifice pour conserver leur nationalité, soumettre à sa haute appréciation les considérations suivantes qui milites, nous en avons l'espoir, en faveur de notre cause.

La Grèce, qui revendique aujourd'hui une partie importante de notre territoire, serait elle-même embarrassée de justifier ses prétentions, si ce n'est en se basant sur le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin. Mais l'Europe n'a jamais eu, ce nous semble, l'idée d'agrandir la Grèce au détriment de l'Albanie; elle n'a certes pas voulu pousser l'amour de l'Hellénisme jusqu'à lui sacrifier une nationalité, qui a tout autant que la Grèce la volonté et le droit de vivre.

Du reste, serait-ce sur le droit historique que le Cabinet d'Athènes baserait ces prétentions? Non; car jamais le sol d'Albanie n'a été foulé en maître par les Hellènes.

Si les Albanais sont moins instruits que les Hellènes, leur œuvre, n'en est pas moins sainte et digne de l'intérêt des peuples civilisés; malgré tant de vicissitudes auxquelles nous avons été sujettes; malgré tant de luttes acharnées dont notre pays, par suite de sa position géographique a été le théâtre, nous avons conservé notre langue, nos mœurs, et ce qui est plus, toutes les qualités et tous les défauts qui sont l'apanage des races montagnardes.

Les événements de ces derniers temps, le danger de voir notre nationalité disparaître, ont fortifié en nous l'amour de la patrie, si chers aux âmes primitives, ont réveillé dans nos montagnes les idées de progrès et de civilisation, auxquelles ne saurait rester réfractoire un peuple qui veut conserver son existence.

Aujourd'hui le peuple Albanais, fort de son droit, s'adresse à la conscience de l'Europe, et invoque ce grand principe des nationalités, grâce auquel la Grèce elle-même doit son existence, pour adjurer les hommes d'Etat, qui ont entre leurs mains les destinés du monde, de ne pas permettre l'anéantissement de la race Albanaise.

L'Albanie tout entière se lève aujourd'hui, et jette un cri unanime de désespoir, en tendant les bras vers ceux qui ont contribué à l'œuvre du Congrès. Elle en a la conviction que les Grandes Puissances agissant maintenant en pleine connaissance de cause, ne voudront pas laisser perpétrer l'acte d'iniquité dont nous sommes sur le point d'être victimes. Les Cabinets Européens, dans leur sagesse, reculeront devant l'immense responsabilité résultant de l'anéantissement de tout un peuple, et l'histoire n'aura a enregistrer la monstrueuse injustice de l'absorption de l'Albanie par l'Helléuisme!

Non, non, grâce à l'Europe notre pays, dont l'existence aura été garantie, sera dans l'Orient le collaborateur actif des nations qui marchent dans la voie de la civilisation; nos voisins seront jaloux du progrès que nous saurons accomplir, sous les influences bienfaisantes des nations Occidentales, dont nous sommes les premiers admirateurs. Nos montagnards acquerront les notions de droit et du devoir, voueront dans leur cœur un culte plein de reconnaissance à l'Aréopage Européen—protecteur vigilant du faible et de l'opprimé!

S'il en était autrement, même si votre Gouvernement consentirait à céder à la Grèce une partie de notre territoire, telle que Preveza, Arta, et Janina—points stratégiques et commerciaux les plus intéressants pour notre existence présente et future—nous sommes tant de plus résolus à nous immoler tous sur l'autel de la patrie, et à ne laisser à la Grèce qu'un vaste champ de carnage fumant encore du sang de nos enfants; et ce sera qu'à la lueur de l'incendie de nos foyers que nous nous retirerons dans nos montagnes, pour y attendre l'envahisseur, et y rendre avec l'énergie du désespoir notre dernier soupir!

Nous, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 689.

Albanian League to Mr. Malet.

LES territoires de Preveza, Janina, et d'Arta, que la Grèce revendique, faisant *ab antiquo* partie intégrante de l'Albanie, la cession de ces territoires à la Grèce équivaudrait à l'anéantissement de toute l'Albanie. Nous avons déjà respectueusement exposé à plusieurs reprises, tant à la Sublime Porte qu'aux Ambassades et aux Cabinets Européens, que nous ne nous soumettrons pas à un état de choses tel qui aurait pour résultat inévitable l'anéantissement de notre nationalité, et que pour défendre notre pays nous étions résolus à y opposer une résistance à outrance. Comme nous apprenons que c'est à Constantinople que l'on a entrepris de trouver une solution à cette question de vie ou de mort pour nous, nous réitérons nos déclarations antérieures, et nous faisant l'organe de tous nos compatriotes, nous venons humblement recourir aux sentiments d'humanité de la Sublime Porte et de votre Excellence, afin que l'on prévienne une catastrophe qui sera la ruine morale et matérielle de toute l'Albanie.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Preveza, le 1er *Mars*, 1879.

No. 690.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter on the subject of the state of the Armenians in the Russian provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 690.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Diarbekir, February 6, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a translation of an extract from "l'Abeille de l'Arménie," an Armenian journal published in Tiflis. It is of somewhat ancient date, viz., $\frac{11th}{23rd}$ November; but it is interesting, as showing the ideas held by the advanced Liberal party amongst the Russian Armenians, a party of no inconsiderable influence, if one may judge from the fact that the three Russian officers so prominently and indiscreetly alluded to in the newspaper extract accompanying my despatch No. 10 of the 1st February all belong to it.

The translation is made by my Dragoman, M. Keshkeshian, who has added some notes of his own referring to the state of Armenian nationality in Russia, which your Excellency may perhaps like to peruse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 690.

Extract from a Tiflis Newspaper and Notes by M. Keshkeshian.

. . . . APRÈS avoir résumé l'état des Arméniens vis-à-vis de la Turquie et des Grandes Puissances, il prend comme thème de son article la mention en faveur de ce peuple des Traités de San-Stéfano et de Berlin :—

". . . . Il ne suffit pas," dit-il, "qu'on publie un plan de réformes pour les Chrétiens; l'essentiel c'est de savoir en tirer parti; du moment qu'il y aura un changement dans le sort des Arméniens, il faut qu'ils sachent profiter, comment et de quelle manière, de ce changement. A présent on discute beaucoup dans les journaux Asiatiques et Européens, touchant surtout l'avenir de ce peuple sous le protectorat de l'Angleterre. Leurs sorts, suivant quelques-uns,[1] paraissent de mauvaise augure; le joug économique du Royaume-Uni est pire, aux yeux de ces publicistes, que l'oppression inconstante des Kurdes. Notre adversaire (allusion à "Mechlak-Ouvrier," organe des Arméniens Russifiés du Caucase) s'ingénie à susciter nos pauvres compatriotes contre les réformes ou influence Anglaises, aussi sont-ils dans un désespoir énervant.

"Quant à nous, nous ne nous rendrons jamais à une exagération outré par une confiance aveugle[2] à l'Angleterre ni par une méfiance préconçue qu'on prône injustement. Nous nous attachons à un point positif, ce qui est tacitement agréé par notre Gouvernement (Russe) c'est que, après l'occupation de Chypre, l'influence Anglaise est un fait accompli en Asie Mineure; en conséquence, il est inutile, et même pernicieux, de soustraire nos compatriotes à cette influence, ou de les vouer éternellement aux déprédations des Kurdes. Ce que nous conseillons à nos coreligionnaires,[3] c'est de méditer d'avance aux moyens de sauvegarder l'avenir de la nation par son contrat avec cette Puissance Européenne.[4]

Nous entendons ainsi l'affaire: le Congrès a mis leur cause sur le tapis comme partie intégrante de la question d'Orient, cette cause paraît trop obscure au prime-abord, et même trop inconnue des Arméniens eux-mêmes. Laissant de côté la solution de cette affaire que l'avenir nous montrera principalement de ce que les Arméniens révèleront, avec leur contact avec les Anglais, plus de valeur intrinsèque, d'aptitudes solides—ce sera comme pierre de touche confiée par l'Europe à l'expertise de l'Angleterre, sous le prétexte[5] d'une affaire intérieure à la pression extérieure; en conséquence, le Gouvernement de la Reine agit en cette affaire comme mandataire des Grandes Puissances protectrices des Chrétiens.

"L'Angleterre est donc un intermédiaire désintéressé entre les Arméno-Turcs et les Grandes Puissances. Voilà un fait qui résiste à toute discussion plus ou moins subtile; il ne reste donc pour eux que de reconnaître leur position, et se mettre à la hauteur des devoirs qui résultera de leurs nouvelles relations.

"Encore une fois, nous conseillons aux Arméno-Turcs de se pénétrer des intentions civilisatrices de l'Angleterre qui servira de base ultérieurement au sort qui promet à l'Arménisme un avenir brillant. Faut-il se tenir sur un terrain neutre vis-à-vis des Anglais ou une coopération active, ce sera la besogne du Conseil National Arménien qui réside à Constantinople, et de l'illustre prélat qui préside si brillamment aux affaires nationales. C'est inutile de réitérer cet avis au Patriarche, que son bon sens ne manquera jamais de fréquenter, plus que partout ailleurs,[6] l'Ambassade Anglaise, pour garantir la nation souffrante de la tyrannie des Kurdes et d'autres barbares. Il ne faut ni s'emporter ni importuner les

autres,[7] du moment que les affaires doivent comme jusqu'à présent (de la part des Anglais) marcher non par soubresaut, mais dans une ornière méthodique. La devise du parti de l'action à Constantinople doit être la prudence et une activité persévérante, parce qu'ils auront affaire, non pas avec les Turcs nonchalants et énervés, ou des Kurdes grossiers et sauvages, mais avec l'Anglo-Saxon, le plus civilisé, le plus habile, le plus persévérant des peuples de l'Europe.

"Avec les deux premiers, les relations de nos coreligionnaires pouvaient se régler par la force brutale ou grâce à l'or du 'baksheesh'—moyens desquels ils étaient privés jusqu'à présent par leur malheureuse situation géographico-morale; mais avec les derniers, leurs relations ne peuvent être utiles qu'à force de prudence et d'une activité éprouvée, les seules qualités indispensables par lesquelles, répétons-nous encore, les Arméniens peuvent et doivent être le pivot, grâce auquel les réformes promises par la Reine en Asie-Mineure trouveront la solution la plus naturelle. Nous sommes convaincus que les Arméniens ne manqueront à leurs devoirs d'élément producteur et conservateur. Tout ce que nous avançons est basé, bien entendu, sur la confiance que nous nourrissons en ce prélat, qui a montré en face de la Russie[8] et de l'Europe son tact parfait; et, en second lieu, nous fondons notre espoir sur le parti désintéressé et sincère de l'Angleterre, qui ne faillira jamais à sa mission de civiliser aussi[9] cette partie de l'Asie . . . .

"En finissant, nous n'avons qu'un mot à dire à l'adresse des publicistes du "Mechak" lesquels ne s'occupent de leurs coreligionnaires de la Turquie comme d'une question de politique générale, dans le but seulement des paraphrases sensationnelles pour paître la curiosité du public, et pour attirer des abonnés . . . . Ils ne savent qu'attaquer un parti soi-disant Anglophile, dont le chef serait le Patriarche (Narsès), ce sont des zizanies inutiles; nous recommandons à nos coreligionnaires d'en deçà comme d'au-delà de la frontière[10] la persévérance dans le sentier qu'ils se sont tracés depuis le Traité de San-Stéfano et le Congrès de Berlin; la concorde c'est le seul moyen pour arriver à sauver l'Arménisme, qui n'est pas en danger—comme on croit à tort—par l'intervention de l'Angleterre pour exécuter les réformes en faveur des Chrétiens de l'Asie-Mineure.

Notes by M. Keshkeshian.

1. "Quelques-uns,"[1] allusion aux deux journaux officieux Anglophobes: à savoir, (*a*) "Mechak Ouvrier," une organe Russophile publié quotidiement en Arménien et subventionné par l'Administration; le but du journal est la Russification latente de tous les Arméniens qui se trouvent sur le territoire Russe, en outre, il est très-connu par sa haine aveugle contre la Turquie, et surtout contre l'Angleterre. Détails ultérieurement que le Soussigné aura l'honneur de soumettre à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur dans son Rapport intitulé: "Quelques mots sur ma résidence biennale dans le Caucase;" (*b*) à "l'Obsor" (lisez "Abzor"), Revue, organe des Georgiens Russifiés, *ex eadem farinâ* que le Mechak . . . .

Il y a en outre le journal "Le Caucase" (en Russe) l'organe du Vice-Roi. Nous ne croyons pas inutile de mentionner aussi, ceux du camp opposé, les Anglophiles ou Turco-philes; pour parler plus justement, les organes des intérêts Caucasiques sans distinction de race ou de religion :—

(I.) Chez les Arméniens :—(i.) "Meghou Hatasdani;" (ii.) "Tifliski Westnik" ("Messager de Tiflis"), auquel le Soussigné collaborait; (iii.) "Portz-Essai," Revue trimestrielle.

(II.) Chez les Georgiens :—"Iberia" (Georgie); chez les Turco-Persans: "Akindji" ("le Laboureur"), publié à Bakou, le premier port de la Mer Caspienne. Nous insisterions ici, une fois pour toute, que les organes Anglophiles sont surveillés par les yeux d'Argus. La censure est inexorable pour eux; de là, toutes ces réticences, antithèses forcées, les entrelignes, pour l'explication desquelles on s'est permis d'ajouter ce commentaire à l'argot inconnu ailleurs, inventé par les gens du Caucase, pour éluder les rigueurs des censeurs Moscovites.

"Quelques-uns" sont donc ajoutés par les censeurs à l'encre rouge, parce qu'il n'est pas permis dans la Sainte Russie de polémiser ouvertement avec les journaux agréés en haut-lieu.

"Confiance aveugle,"[2] épithète évidemment ajouté par les censeurs, l'omission duquel, accusant l'Anglophilisme, aurait été cause pour ne pas permettre la publication de l'article. Nous parlons de *ces choses de visu et cognita causâ*. Nous mêmes nous sommes passés plus d'une fois par les fourches caudines des Parques Russes.

"Coreligionnaires."[3] Ce mot, il ne faut pas trop le comprendre dans son exception ordinaire, comme c'est l'usage en Europe. C'est une expression employée à dessein,

comme c'est convenu dans le monde des journalistes anti-Russes de Tiflis pour montrer l'indignation sourde qui cause aux Arméniens l'immixtion illégale, et à toute occasion des autorités Russes dans les affaires religieuses de l'Eglise d'Arménie, et du Catholicos, son Chef suprême.

Sous le prétexte que cette Eglise faisait partie intégrante jadis de l'Eglise d'Orient, autrement dit Grecque, la Russie depuis, avant, est même après la conquête du Caucase, a exercé, et exerce encore une pression ouverte sur le clergé Arménien pour le réunir au Saint Synode de St. Pétersbourg, dont le Chef est Czar. Sans faire l'historique de cette Eglise, nous pouvons dire, suivant même les termes propres d'une lettre du présent Catholicos adressée à l'Empereur en 1873 (dans le but de protester contre la loi de surveillance imposée par le Bureau d'Instruction de Tiflis sur les collèges et séminaires Arméniens) que "le pouvoir du Chef suprême de l'Eglise d'Arménie est moins étendu, garanti sous l'égide du Czar, que du temps des Tartares, Turcs, et Persans; la langue, les écoles, le rite des Arméniens étaient respectés par les Musulmans, en un mot, que l'Arménien étaient indépendant dans son Eglise."

Voici, depuis une cinquantaine d'années, les principales immixtions des Russes, qui sont les causes de désaffection des Arméniens à l'égard des Moscovites:—

(1.) Retrécissement de l'autorité Cathocossale, d'après un prétendu Concordat arraché, par des manœuvres, à la faiblesse de Catholicos Jean (fin du XVIII^e^ siècle, qui est connu des Arméniens de la Turquie sous le nom de "Balajénia."

(2.) Serment de sacre, en usage depuis une trentaine d'années, composé de quatorze ou dix-sept Articles, en vertu duquel (que nous avons lu très-attentivement à Etchmiadzine et qui nous a inspiré une horreur indicible contre le Machiavelisme des Russes, d'autant plus que les Turcs, sous les plus puissants de leurs Sultans (les Mahomets, les Solimans) n'avaient jamais imposé un pareil réseau d'enchaînement); le Catholicos jure de ne rien faire contre l'autorité du Czar, même agir hors sa juridiction (en Turquie) suivant le "bon plaisir" du Patriarche couronné de Kremlin.

Les circulaires, les sacrements, mandements, ou les actes de moindre importance, doivent être contrôlés:—(*a.*) par le Vice-Roi, (*b.*) par le Procureur, souvent un médecin ou un général; (*c.*) par les espions.

(3.) Un système de Russification complète suivant une série d'instructions, règlements, ukases et "zagons" (lois), qui a pour but de tuer l'Arménisme à tous les âges, dans la vie privée et publique. Grâce à ce système, de 1,500,000 Arméniens qu'on compte en Russie, 500,000 sont ou Russifiés ou en voie de Russification; les colonies ultra-Caucasiques (les villes de Mozdok, Kizliar, Astrakan; la colonie Crimeénne, si florissante du temps des Tartares, avec la ville par sang Arménien (à peu près 50,000 habitants) de Nor-Nakhitchéwan, sont complétement Russifiés.

Les Archevêques de Tiflis, d'Astrakan, de Nor-Nakhitchéwan, malgré le mécontentement de leurs ouailles ou des Catholicos, ne peuvent pas être changés; en outre, ils sont subventionnés par l'Etat; on comprend aisément comment l'Arménisme serait détruit par la main même de son gardien.

Dans le Caucase, dans la capitale de l'Arménisme en Russie, à Tiflis, on compte 3,000 à 4,000 familles Russes d'origine Arménienne. En général, ce qu'on appelle les Métis ou Créoles en Europe, les acclimatés Russes du Caucase, surtout les militaires, sont du sang Arménien par père ou mère. En résumé, voici les moyens auxquels les Russes ont recours pour faire oublier à toutes les races du Caucase en général, aux Arméniens en particulier, leur nationalité:—

(*a.*) Avant le mariage, par l'instruction forcée des jeunes gens des deux sexes dans les gymnases, et instituts de l'Etat. Les jeunes filles surtout sont, par l'ordre du Vice-Roi, sujettes à une attention sérieuse de la part du Bureau d'Instruction de Tiflis. On compte 5,000 à 6,000 élèves par année, fréquentant les écoles moyennes de l'Etat, un millier les écoles supérieures, trois instituts de jeunes filles, dont la majorité forme les Arméniens.

L'Institut des jeunes filles, bâti en face du Palais du Vice-Roi du Caucase, et où sont ramassés les enfants de la fine fleur de l'aristocratie Arméno-Georgienne, contient 1,200 pupilles, trois quarts Arméniennes, lesquelles instruites à la Russe, rêvent aux beaux officiers à épaulettes dorées, se Russifient, se marient tôt ou tard aux Moscovites, en leur apportant des dots fabuleuses . . . . *idem* des jeunes étudiants Arméniens élevés à l'école des Nihilistes . . . .

La ville de Tiflis, la seconde ville du monde où le nombre des Arméniens soit au complet, ne contient pas 200 habitants qui puissent parler la langue nationale, non compris le séminaire Nersessian. Le Polonisme, comme l'Arménisme, peuvent se donner la main . . . .

(*b.*) Par le mariage. D'après une Loi Organique de l'Empire toute personne des deux sexes qui se marie avec un Russe, ou Orthodoxe, doit accepter *ipso facto* l'Orthodoxie; un Arménien marié à une Russe, les enfants de cet union deviennent Orthodoxe: un Russe se marie avec une Arménienne, &c.

(*c, d.*) Dans l'âge mûr par l'apostasie. On en compte beaucoup d'exemples. Par l'espoir d'avancement dans les grades administratifs ou militaires; les fidèles, par conséquent, à la langue ou à la religion de l'Arménie, sont voués à un non-avancement éternel, ou végètent jusqu'à la vieillesse, dans les emplois subalternes ou insignifiants. La plupart des mécontents, des anti-Russes, appartient à cette catégorie.

Je ne parlerais pas des mesures fiscales, judiciaires, et surtout de la censure, pour étouffer chez les Arméniens tout espèce de développement physique, moral, et intellectuel.

Des quatres séminaires existants deux sont supprimés ou Russifiés: Institut Lazarew à Moscou et le Gymnase Khalibow en Crimée. Aujourd'hui il n'y a que deux: Séminaire Nersissian, et celui d'Etchmiadzine.

La suppression de l'enseignement de la langue et d'histoire d'Arménie aux étudiants Arméniens fréquentant les écoles de l'Etat; l'introduction forcée, pour faire échec à l'étude de la langue nationale, d'histoire, et de géographie en Russe, langue à laquelle les jeunes élèves ne peuvent se habituer facilement, obligatoire pour toutes les écoles Arméniennes. Enseignement du catéchisme Arménien en Russe (absolument comme en Pologne); la mention du nom de l'Empereur et de la famille Romanow dans la messe, tout l'opposé de la Constitution Républicaine de l'Eglise Nationale; et tant d'autres incrusions puériles sur lesquelles nous croyons oiseux d'attirer l'attention . . . .

Les péjoratifs d'Armiachka (synonyme de Tzigane) et d'Eutichéens, sont surtout blessants à l'égard des Arméniens que les Russes de toutes catégories leur prodiguent.

"Cette Puissance Européenne."[4] Encore une allusion pleine de réticence, nous dirions presque sanglante, à l'Asiaticisme absorptionniste des Moscovites; les Russes se glorifient, en vrais photographes, d'être une des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe; l'auteur par l'adjectif "cette" fait comprendre, à mots couverts, que l'Angleterre ne sera pas comme l'autre (la Russie).

Pléonasme pseudo-ironique = "sous le prétexte,"[5] pour plaire à la censure Vice-Royale. "Pression extérieure" = la Russie.

"Partout ailleurs,"[6] c'est-à-dire éviter la Russie. "La tyrannie des Kurdes," c'est un mot à mot portée, mais employé seulement pour tromper la censure; le correctif, "d'autres barbares" dans le langage conventionnel des anti-Russes Tiflisiens, signifie les Moscovites; c'est un mot à mot allégorique.

Le gros public de la ville composé de tous les indigènes du Caucase, emploie le mot Arménien "Soch" = oignon, au sens propre et figuré, comme qui dirait que les intrus (les soldats Russes, surtout les Cosaques, sentent si mauvais) ont rempli de puanteur la maison de leur hôte; le dernier Heraclius, Roi de Georgie, au commencement du XIX^e^ siècle, avait invité les Russes pour le délivrer de la tyrannie des Persans . . . . les premiers en vrais intrus, ont dépossédé le maître de la maison, comme on le sait.

"Importuner les autres."[7] Il faut le comprendre au singulier, par conséquent la Russie. C'est encore un jargon anti-grammatical de convention. Il y a surtout dans cette périphrase une allusion désapprobative de l'adresse faite, comme on doit se le rappeler, par l'ordre ou l'instigation Vice-Royale, par les Arméniens de Mechak (lisez "Russifiés") au Czar pour soutenir aussi la cause des Arméniens de la Turquie à la Conférence de Constantinople, dont la non-réussite a donnée lieu à la guerre Turco-Russe.

Il y a donc ici un avertissement rétrospectif pour éviter la même maladresse.

"En face de la Russie;"[8] mot à mot allusion à l'entrevue de Mgr. Narsès lors de l'arrivée du Czarévitch Nicholas à San-Stéfano. Logiquement, suivant la marche même de la phrase, c'est inexacte; c'est encore une complaisance forcée envers le censeur pour la permission de publication.

"Civiliser aussi."[9] Les exemples ou les explications déplaisantes sont supprimés par le censeur; c'est un knout de plume. Le complétif "aussi" montre à nu que l'auteur avait cité des exemples de bienfaits Britanniques aux Indes ou ailleurs. La phrase marche comme par aphorisme, méthode qui serait le meilleur moyen de faire l'article incompréhensible, surtout aux lecteurs Asiatiques; ce qui, n'est certes pas l'intention du rédacteur Anglophile; c'est la jalousie ou le mauvais vouloir du Parque Moscovite.

"Au delà de la frontière,"[10] mots qu'il ne faut prendre au pied de la lettre; c'est tout simplement allusion aux nouveaux émigrés d'Alachguerdo et de Bayazid. On dit, suivant des lettres récemment arrivées, que l'Administration Moscovite—une fois que les pauvres paysans lui sont servi "d'homme de paille" pour faire croire à l'Europe que les Chrétiens suivent partout son armée libératrice—est embarrassée de subside, nourriture, ou logement des habitants suivant précipitamment les Russes, qui avaient tout abandonné sur le pays natal. Conquérants et conquis désamourachés, désillusionnés les uns des autres, se

tournent du côté adverse. Comme on sait, les Arméniens rentrent par groupes détachés dans la "patrie des ancêtres."

No. 691.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, March 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that two out of three Mussulmans, and the three Christian members of the Divani Medjliss (Court of Appeal) at Trebizond, have sent in their resignation, and that it was with the greatest difficulty that Yussuf Pasha induced them to retain temporarily their appointments, in order to avoid an increase of the already existing perturbation in the Courts of Justice in this province.

The two Mussulmans mentioned above, Mehmed Effendi and Vehbi Effendi, appear to be honest men, who have uselessly striven to tide against the power of the Cadi (President of the Court of Appeal), who is represented by all parties as being a functionary without conscience.

Mehmed Effendi and Vehbi Effendi, who had often been compelled to submit to the majority of votes which the Cadi managed to rally to his opinion, were in hopes of the Court being reorganized.

However, as Yussuf Pasha's request to the Porte for substitute Judges met with a refusal on the ground of there being no available officials at hand, and as the forementioned Mussulman members of the Court of Appeal saw that injustices continued to be of frequent occurrence, they resigned, and their example was followed by all their Christian colleagues.

The release of a Mussulman accused of having murdered one of his co-religionists and an attempt to set at liberty one of the principals in the outrage on the Santatis, have brought about this decision of all the members of the Court of Appeal but one, Osman Effendi, who always sides with the Cadi.

The Pasha has telegraphed the occurrence to Constantinople, and is waiting for the decision of the Porte; but no other solution is possible if anything like justice is expected from the Divani Medjliss, but to appoint another Cadi, and to elect a new member in the room of Osman Effendi.

With regard to the Temij Medjliss (Court of First Instance), its President, Hadji Sina Effendi, is not held in better repute than the Cadi. Of the two Mussulman members of this Court, one, Hafouz Shakir, who is in league with the President, is said to be known for never siding with justice; the other, Hadji Hussein Effendi, is a mere tool in their hands.

The two Christian members, who complete the number of Judges in this Court, have no more influence than their Christian colleagues in the Divani Medjliss. Either their voices are not heard, or they do not dare to express openly their opinion.

What justice can be expected at the hands of a Court similarly constituted? It is urgent that the President and both Mussulman members should be replaced by better qualified officials.

It is useless for me to repeat that the trial of the suspected parties in the outrage on the Santatis has not yet commenced; but it may be instructive to know that the Mussulman plunderers of the Greek Monastery of Sumela (despatch No. 74 of 1877) who were apprehended in May 1878 (despatch No. 58 of same year) have not yet been tried for the presumable purpose of allowing the culprits to escape punishment.

Yussuf Pasha, who has had great difficulty to prevent several of the parties arrested under suspicion to be set at liberty without trial, is so convinced that the present Presidents of the Medjlisses will avail themselves of his departure to release those whom they protect, that in order to shelter his own responsibility, he intends to draw up a list of the accused parties who may happen to be in prison on his leaving Trebizond.

It is not admissible that with all possible deficiency in the number of judicial officers, it should be out of the power of the Porte to send two to preside over the Courts of Justice of this province, and its not doing so, even temporarily, at the present stage of things at Trebizond, would be beyond comprehension.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 692.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Tissot, the French Minister at this Court, has strongly advised His Majesty's Government not to break off the present negotiations with the Porte so long as an amicable arrangement is possible, but at the same time to adhere to the proposals made in the Berlin Treaty as closely as they can. His Excellency has also joined me in deprecating any insurrectionary movements on the part of the Greeks inhabiting the disputed territory, as likely to endanger the success of the national aspirations.

On the other hand, the Austrian Minister has advised the Greek Government to break off the present negotiations, but it is uncertain whether Count Dubsky, in giving this advice, is acting under instructions from his Government, although an impression exists that Austria is, for her own ends, not indisposed to see troubles arise in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 693.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 11, 1879.*

REFERENCE being made by Sir Henry Elliot in his despatch of the 7th ultimo (copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's No. 16 of the 27th of same month) to the relative numbers of Mussulmans and Greeks in the population of Janina, I have the honour to communicate some statistics on this subject taken from the Returns published yearly by the Turkish Government of the populations of the different vilayets into which the Empire is divided.

By these Returns it appears that the whole population of the town of Janina amounts to 18,336, of which 10,500 are Greeks, 5,063 Turks, and 2,800 Jews.

The whole population of the Province of Janina (outside the town) is Greek.

The correctness of this Return is corroborated by the independent testimony of a Report of the Austrian Military Attaché at Constantinople made for the year 1876.

The whole population of Epirus and Thessaly is officially stated by the Turks to be as follows:—

Christians	727,815
Ottomans	257,085
Jews	6,450
Total	1,091,350

Of these 375,650 inhabit Thessaly, viz.:—

Christians	330,000
Ottomans	42,000
Jews	3,650
Total	375,650

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 693.

VILAYET OF JANINA.

	Greeks.	Turks.	Jews.	Total.	Observations.
1. Town of Janina	10,500	5,036	2,800	18,336	
2. Sandjak of Janina	78,890	..	..	78,890	
Total	89,390	5,036	2,800	97,226	
3. District of Paramithia ..	11,322	5,000	..	16,322	All the inhabitants speak Greek, but half of them are of Albanian origin.
4. ,, Grevena	27,000	5,390	..	32,390	Population all Greek, and speaking Greek.
5. ,, Konitza	38,448	5,204	..	43,652	Population all Greek, many of them speaking Albanian.
6. ,, Meszovo	6,000	..	..	6,000	Population all Greek, and speaking also the Valach language.
7. ,, Phylato	31,894	19,502	..	51,396	With a few exceptions Christians and Ottomans are of Albanian origin, the former having adhered to their religions, the latter having changed it to avoid persecution.
Total	204,054	40,132	2,800	246,986	

SANDJAK OF PREVESA.

1. District of Prevesa	12,400	1,500	..	..	All speaking Greek.
2. ,, Parga	6,016	1,000	..	..	Ditto.
3. Phani Margarita	4,500	15,000	..	..	All the inhabitants, with the exception of a few, are of Albanian nationality.
4. ,, Arta	43,000	1,000	..	..	All the inhabitants are Greeks.
Total	65,916	18,500	..	84,416	

SANDJAK OF ARGYROCASTRO.

1. District of Argyrocastro ..	31,000	25,000	..	..	Both classes, whether Mahommedans or Orthodox, are of Albanian nationality.
2. ,, Muzoni	18,000	30,000	..	..	Ditto.
3. ,, Tepelini	15,200	40,000	..	..	Ditto.
4. ,, Delvino	42,000	27,000	..	..	Ditto.
Total	110,200	122,000	..	232,200	

SANDJAK OF BERAT.

1. District of Berat	34,268	79,500	..	..	Both classes, whether Mahommedans or Orthodox, are of Albanian nationality.
2. ,, Avlona	2,572	28,500	..	..	Ditto.
3. ,, Scropalo	535	1,998	..	..	Ditto.
4. ,, Tomboritzi ..	20	7,410	..	..	Ditto.
Total	37,395	117,398	..	144,793	

RECAPITULATION.

Christian population	417,565
Ottoman population	292,030
Jews	2,800
Total	712,395

No. 694.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 12, 1879.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 60 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that the Greek Minister of War, Colonel Grivas, has addressed a Circular to the military authorities on the frontier in which he instructs them, under their personal responsibility, to disperse all armed bands assembling with the intention to pass the frontier into Turkey, to arrest and disarm the members, and to make them over to the judicial authorities.

Thirty Greek deserters under the command of a sergeant who had crossed the Greek frontier into Thessaly have already been arrested and conducted to Chalcis, where they are kept under arrest.

The Greek Government appears determined to do all that lies in its power to avoid any complications with the Porte, which might serve as an excuse to the latter for prolonging or breaking off the negotiations in regard to a new frontier.

They appear anxious, when the time for asking for the mediation of the Great

Powers, to whom they look for a settlement of the question, arrives, to be able to show that they have done all in their power to come to a direct understanding with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 695.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 13, 1879.

FOR some time past the Greek Government has been pressing the Porte to come to some arrangement for the combined action of the authorities of the two Governments on the Thessalian frontier for the suppression of brigandage, but without success.

M. Delyanni told me yesterday that the Ottoman Government had a few days ago consented to act with the Greek Government in this matter, and that a meeting of Turkish and Greek Agents had been arranged for the 9th instant at some place on Greek territory to concert measures with that object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 696.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 13, 1879.

M. CONDOURIOTTIS has informed his Government that the Sultan has signed an Iradé approving of a new line of frontier which Moukhtar Pasha is to be instructed to propose to the Greek Commissioners at Prevesa in satisfaction of the claim made by Greece for an increase of territory in accordance with the recommendation of the Congress of Berlin.

M. Delyanni told me yesterday that he had not received exact details of what the Porte was disposed to cede to Greece, but it appeared to consist of a strip of country a few miles wide running parallel with the present frontier, excluding the Gulfs of Arta and Volo.

He characterized the proposal as "ridicule," and it would, if true, be generally so considered here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 697.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 15, 1879.

M. CONDOURIOTTIS has informed the Greek Government that he had been told by Carathéodory Pasha that new instructions had been sent to the Turkish Commissioners at Prevesa, but his Excellency had not explained the nature of them.

At last accounts received at Athens from Prevesa, dated yesterday, the instructions appeared not to have yet arrived there.

The Greek Government are not sanguine that the proposals in regard to a new frontier about to be made will be such as they can accept.

M. Zinopoulos, one of the Greek Commissioners, has returned to Athens on account of the bad state of his health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 698.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to the communication made to your Lordship by the French Ambassador in London, and of the remarks drawn up by M. Waddington on the 3rd February, 1879, on the subject of the Jewish question in Roumania which accompanied it, and of which your Lordship kindly sent me a copy for observations, on the 12th February last, I have the honour to report that in my opinion the conclusions come to by the Foreign Minister of France appear deserving of the greatest consideration by the Ministers of Prince Charles, and to be dictated by the most friendly motives for this country.

I have no reason to believe that the contents of that highly interesting and carefully drawn up document have been brought even unofficially before the Members of the Roumanian Government, but the principle which it embodies and suggests as the best solution of the Jewish claims is not new to them or to any one who has lately devoted attention to the subject.

Indeed, it is to be found in the 17th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, where an unsuccessful attempt was made by Count de Launay on the 10th July to insert in the text of Article LXIV a provision very similar to the one now proposed by the French Foreign Minister, and by which all Jews born in Roumania who did not belong to a foreign nationality would have acquired a right to Roumanian citizenship.

In resisting the insertion of such a clause in the text of the Treaty, Prince Bismarck is recorded as having pointed out the inconvenience "of modifying the resolutions adopted, or of reverting to the original question," and opposed, what is called in the French text "de revenir sur le fond."

The Roumanians draw from this the conclusion that, to require now the admission of all native Jews who had no foreign protection, would be to expect them to go beyond the strict letter of the obligations imposed on them by the text of Article XLIV, by which they have an international duty to accomplish, *i.e.*, to remove from the legislation "all grounds for exclusion or incapacity" derived from the profession of a religion that is not Christian, such as the fundamental shutting out of Jews from citizenship which existed in Article VII of the Constitution, and which is being amended.

But they say that the fulfilment of this is the utmost that can be required from them, and that the details of working it out must be left to themselves.

They say that this must have been the intention of the Congress, as it adopted the principle of religious equality to the fullest extent in the drafting of the Treaty, but declined to modify the text subsequently for the purpose of inserting a definition recommended by Count Launay.

They allege:—

1. That after the new Chambers shall have revised Article VII they will continue to sit in ordinary Session, and will be competent to carry out the principle of religious equality in the internal legislation of the country.

2. That whilst admitting Jews to the enjoyment of political rights, birth in Roumania may be taken as one of the proofs of nationality in cases where no foreign protection has ever been claimed, but that other conditions may be required also that it cannot be admitted as the only one.

3. That as even under the existing legislation, Russian and Polish Jews are attracted in considerable numbers to come over to Moldavia, securities have to be taken that the new legislation will not tend to expose the country to be overrun by new immigrants and the electoral districts be swamped by an alien population.

My own personal impression would have been that a proposal of this kind was deserving of a favourable consideration, but from inquiries I have made, very indirectly, of course, I am afraid that its acceptance by Roumania will present immense difficulties.

As the French and German Governments show a disposition to continue exacting on this question, the present uncertainty will probably continue till after the next general election here; and as a great many Deputies and Senators will have to pledge themselves to resistance to excessive Jewish claims at that time, it is very likely that the Government will then feel justified in standing up with more determination against foreign pressure, and in such a case political complications may be feared, of the danger of which it would be perhaps premature to speak at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 699.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 15, 1879.*

IT appears, from conversations I have had with several of the Ministers, that these have given up as hopeless the prospect of a recognition of their country by Germany and the Western Powers.

They have come to this conclusion chiefly in consequence of the news they have received from Belgrade where the new French Minister has arrived, and Germany and Great Britain have officially notified the appointment of Chargé d'Affaires, without waiting till the Great Skoupstchina amends the Constitution, allowing the Jews to take up their domicile in the places from which they were hitherto excluded.

The difference of treatment which the two Principalities are thus receiving from three of the Great Powers, is entirely to the detriment of Roumania, and sets people thinking why the small State which still continues to enjoy the favour of Russia should be thus singled out by the other Powers for diplomatic recognition whilst it continues denied to the other.

One of the Ministers, in speaking to me the other day of the increasing difficulties of his country in consequence of the unsatisfactory condition of its relations with some foreign Courts, said that the Western Cabinets had blamed them for having needlessly given offence to Russia. I observed that I never had been instructed by your Lordship to express anything of the kind, to which he replied, "But France and Italy have certainly lectured us on the subject when on the question of Arab-Tabia we had expected sympathy and support."

I shall abstain from commenting on the inconvenience arising from a condition of things which I have spared no personal exertion to soothe and diminish during the last eleven months, principally through a desire to strengthen in these people a proper feeling of independence from foreign influence, and to secure to British Commercial interests personally, a fair field for competition with German and Austrian goods and a larger market.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 700.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, March 15, 1870.*

A VERY unpleasant effect was produced here by a reference in the news published by the Havas Telegraphic Agency yesterday to a conversation between the Roumanian Archbishop of Hermanstadt (Transylvania), who is reported as having asked Count Andrassy what truth there was in an intention attributed to Russia and Austria by some newspaper to partition Roumania between them.

Count Andrassy, as could be expected, had answered, according to the same account, by denying both truth and common sense to this story.

It is only an evidence of the deep feeling of insecurity existing in these parts that such a story should be circulated, and if true, that a high dignitary of the Church should think it worth his while to speak of it.

It seems that this story appeared originally in a Roumanian newspaper published at Hermanstadt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 701.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Ragusa, March 13, 1879.

My Lord,

EVER since the beginning of the winter vessels laden with maize have continually been arriving at this port, and discharging their cargoes in the Government magazines.

The object of this vast accumulation of grain is to relieve the distress which a prolonged insurrection has inevitably entailed.

When the occupation was effected, and order somewhat established, the Austrian Government appointed a Commission in each district of the Herzegovina whose duty it was to find out, with the assistance of the Kaïmakam, all the indigent fathers of families, and to inform them that at Ragusa grain had been stored for their special use, and that when it was satisfactorily proved to the members of the Commission that the head of a family was really in want of assistance, an order would be given which, when presented at Ragusa, would entitle the holder to an allowance, gratis, of 20 kilog. of maize per month for each member of his family.

During the month of January some 3,000 families availed themselves of the Government offer. Strings of horses and mules were seen daily departing with as much grain as they could carry.

During the month of February, however, the demand for assistance appeared to grow less urgent, as only 200 families availed themselves of the privilege; and now, strange to say, hardly a single person coming from the Herzegovina claims Government assistance, yet they come pouring in, not to receive alms from the Government, but to buy from private stores, paying with English sovereigns and napoleons.

How do they come by this gold? is the general exclamation, when only two months since the same people were actually starving, and certainly no exports could have taken place during that period.

There is but one conclusion, namely, that money has been supplied by Russia, and that English and French gold has been distributed in preference to any other.

I now have to draw your Lordship's attention to the blunder committed by the Austrian Government.

Instead of distributing food to all who really were in want of it, and thereby gaining popularity, a condition was made that only those who consented to recognize the indisputable rights of the Aga, or landlord, should be saved from starvation, a question which now has become the great stumbling-block of the occupation, and which, if not equitably settled, will be the cause of future trouble.

At first many, from sheer necessity, were forced to accept; but when the facts became known in certain quarters, political capital was at once made out of it. Help soon arrived, and the rayahs now decline all assistance subject to such conditions.

A few still arrive, it is true, but only from certain districts well garrisoned by Austrian troops.

Those bordering on Montenegro dare not accept the conditions and return whence they came, as their houses, their families, and their lives have been threatened by their own countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 702.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 4. Political.)
Ragusa, March 14, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that my attention has been drawn to fresh batches of rayahs arriving from the Herzegovina, and stopping at the Government magazines for provisions.

I endeavoured to ascertain what changes had taken place that enabled them to accept Government assistance; but the people are too stupid and ignorant to give one any information on the subject.

They admit, however, that permission had been given them to come, by which it

may be inferred that these poor people are merely tools in the hands of the more intelligent of their countrymen, who are acting as agents, and receiving money and instructions from Russian emissaries from Montenegro, and that the Austrian officials, after the facts were brought to the notice of the Government that the sweeping measures adopted for the settlement of the land-tenure question in the Herzegovina would not work, have come to some arrangement by which the conditions for the distribution of grain have been partially withdrawn or modified.

At first sight the policy of the Government in coercing the rayahs, who imagined that in consequence of the insurrection they had acquired by right of conquest a legal claim to their landlord's properties, appeared perfectly just, but the measure was a sweeping one, and, consequently, inequitable, causing much irritation, and thereby playing into the hands of a Power whose interest it will ever be to keep those provinces in a continual state of ferment, so that at its bidding an explosion might take place at any given moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 703.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 25.)

(No. 25.)
Buda-Pesth, March 10, 1879.

Sir,

I ASKED Baron Orczy this morning whether he had any information as to the reality of the intention, attributed by rumour to a large party in the Bulgarian Constituent Assembly, to defer the election of a Prince until the definite appointment of a Governor for Eastern Roumelia, and then to nominate the latter as the chosen ruler of the Principality, and thus attempt to secure the union of the two provinces.

Baron Orczy said that the Government had no positive information on the subject, but that it was clear that the Assembly felt under no obligation to proceed to the election of a Prince at present, and that it was by no means unlikely that the motive was such as had been attributed to them. But he added that, unless there was a general agreement on the part of the Powers to allow themselves to be baffled, and the Treaty of Berlin stultified, by the action of the Bulgarians, it would be impossible for such a scheme to be successful.

What, however, appeared to be certain was that all the candidates for the Bulgarian Princedom, against whose election the Powers would in general find few objections, were evincing disinclination to have anything further to do with the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 704.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 25.)

(No. 28.)
Buda-Pesth, March 10, 1879.

Sir,

BARON ORCZY spoke to me this morning about the imminence of trouble in Macedonia, and said that General Tchernaieff's presence in that part of the world was of itself enough to cause alarm, but that in addition to him there had gone there several Austro-Hungarian firebrands, such as MM. Hubmayer and Linbibratics, who intended to recommence the game they had played two or three years ago in the Herzegovina.

I understand that these gentlemen have been informed that whatever may occur they need not count upon the protection of the Austro-Hungarian Government, or on any intervention with the Porte upon their behalf if, after provoking insurrection, they fall into the hands of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 705.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

I READ to Count Andrassy this morning your Excellency's despatch to me of the 11th instant respecting the language attributed to Count Dubsky, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Athens, and the advice said to have been given by him to the Greek Government to break off negotiations with the Porte, and I gave his Excellency the letter which you had inclosed under flying seal in that despatch.

When I came to the passage suggesting that "Austria may not be indisposed, for ends of her own, to stir up difficulties in Macedonia," Count Andrassy exclaimed, "Well, "That is pretty strong." And when I had finished reading he said that he could not understand how any one could have dreamed of imputing to him such a design. The policy of the Austro-Hungarian Government was the straightforward one of endeavouring to maintain and consolidate tranquillity in all the provinces of European Turkey, and it was unintelligible that any one should suppose that this Empire could derive any advantage from pursuing a different course.

As for the language which Count Dubsky is stated to have held, Count Andrassy said that he had sent no recent instructions to Athens, and certainly had never given the Greek Government any hint to break off negotiations with the Porte. He did not, it was true, regard the proposals of the Porte as acceptable, for the simple reason that they were not sufficiently in accordance with the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin; but he did not on that account consider that a rupture of negotiations would be justifiable. He believed that his views on this matter were, in fact, precisely those of the English and French Governments, and he would send instructions in that sense to Count Dubsky.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 706.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 32.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

I READ to Count Andrassy this morning your Excellency's despatch of yesterday, instructing me to communicate to him the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of General Hamley as Boundary Commissioner for Bulgaria.

His Excellency said that he was anxious that the Commission should recommence work as soon as possible. He had already written to Count Karolyi in detail his ideas respecting the future action of the Commission, and in this communication he had developed at length the reasons which led him to insist that all disputed questions must be decided by a majority of the Commissioners.

He had sent this despatch by post to London in order that Count Karolyi might be able to discuss the matter with the Marquis of Salisbury without delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 707.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 34.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

I COMMUNICATED to Count Andrassy this morning the substance of your telegram of yesterday, informing me of the answer which the Marquis of Salisbury had telegraphed to Sir H. Drummond Wolff with regard to the proposed visit of a deputation from Roumelia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia, to Vienna, Paris, and London.

His Excellency received the information with much pleasure, and said that he would adopt Lord Salisbury's language in the instruction which he would send to M. Kallay on the subject. He had recently had a telegram about the Deputation, from which he was led to believe that it was extremely doubtful whether it would ever start.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 708.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March* 13, 1879.

I GAVE Count Andrassy this morning the substance of your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, as well as the paraphrase of the Marquis of Salisbury's telegram to you, which I had subsequently received by post, respecting the military situation at Constantinople, and the urgency of a decision on the measures to be taken with regard to a mixed occupation.

After a careful study of these communications, his Excellency said that he had just been reading a Report which gave a sketch of affairs precisely similar to that telegraphed to Lord Salisbury by Mr. Malet on the 10th instant, and which unfortunately was quite confirmatory of the incapacity of the Turkish War Department for organization.

Count Andrassy went on to say that, as far as General Baker's views are concerned, they contain recommendations so new to him that he could not venture to pronounce any opinion as to their expediency, but if it were positive that the Turks would not be prepared with a sufficient military force when the moment arrived for its employment, the very grave measure of a mixed occupation seems unavoidable.

His Excellency then referred to what had formerly passed on this subject, and to the objections raised by Her Majesty's Government to the participation of Russia in the execution of the project. He said that he must maintain that there is no justification for excluding a Russian contingent, because the only unexceptionable ground upon which the measure can be based is its necessity in the common interests of Europe. This principle was the foundation of the Treaty of Berlin, and in any departure from the provisions of that Treaty, such as will be involved by a step of this kind, regard must still be had to it. No pretext should be afforded for the assertion that the measure was undertaken in the interest of any one or two Powers; but it should be clearly established that Turkey, having demonstrated her incapacity for the discharge of the duty imposed upon her, Europe entered upon the task in her stead. To emphasize this position the army of occupation should be placed under the control of the European Commission, and it should be regarded as the representative not so much of the material as of the moral force of the Great Powers. Regarded in this light it might be hoped that the occupation would impress upon all the disaffected the inutility of a continued attempt to resist the will of united Europe, and that the employment of a very large force would thus be rendered unnecessary.

Count Andrassy proceeded to point out that, as the Powers who agreed to the measure would *pro tanto* commit themselves to a departure from the Treaty—("se disposeront à s'écarter du Traité")—every detail in connection with its execution will have to be considered with the most elaborate caution. It would seem to be a preliminary necessity that Turkey should be called upon to declare whether she were in a position to maintain order by the employment of an adequate military force; for it would only be by an explicit understanding to the contrary that the action of other Powers would be rendered imperative, although it might well be feared that by some means or another—by massacres purposely arranged, or provoked by occurrences always unluckily too possible—cause would certainly be given for the active intervention of an armed force either Turkish or foreign.

Then followed the question of the disposition of individual Powers to concur, not only in the principle of the measure, but in material participation in its execution. As far as Count Andrassy was aware, France, which had previously shown an inclination favourable to the project, was now indisposed to undertake any responsibility in connection with it. It might be, however, that Her Majesty's Government would succeed in persuading that of France to associate themselves with the enterprise; but as for Germany, his Excellency felt nearly convinced that nothing would induce Prince Bismarck to move in the matter.

Count Andrassy adverted to the words of Lord Salisbury's telegram—"that to enable the two Powers to act on emergency without delay it is desirable that the matter

should be fully matured before then;" and said that he would give his serious consideration to the subject; and that he hoped he should be prepared, on his return to Vienna, which would probably be on the 10th instant, to lay before your Excellency some more "matured ideas" for communication to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 709.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 13, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY informed me this morning that he had received news from Constantinople very unpromising for the speedy termination of the negotiations between Count Zichy and the Porte. This unsatisfactory state of things was caused, his Excellency explained, by the conduct of Carathéodory Pasha, who was continuing the game he had played at Vienna, and was acting as dishonestly now as he did then. It was impossible, according to Count Andrassy, to feel certain of one's ground in dealing with such a man; for he made assurances one day only to retract them the next; and, in short, "played fast and loose" without compunction.

Nothing could well be stronger than the language which Count Andrassy employed in relation to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs; and when I answered that I was surprised to hear it as I believed your Excellency to have a very different opinion of Carathéodory Pasha, the Count replied that he was aware of it, but that you had not had the same experience of negotiating with him.

His Excellency proceeded to remark upon the encouragement given to the Porte in its obstinacy by the Hungarian opposition—"Count Apponyi and his partners ('et consorts')—who persisted in declaring that they knew that he intended pushing the occupation as far as Salonica, in spite of all his assurances to the contrary. He had the night before pledged his word of honour in the Hungarian Delegation that the Government did not dream of doing anything of the kind, but still he was not believed. He was ready to admit that he did not intend the way to Salonica to be barred by any one else. Austria must continue to command the means of communication with the Ægean; but that was all at present requisite.

With regard to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, Count Andrassy said that he had no desire for anything more than was expressed in the Treaty of Berlin. The fact was that he had information that certain Turkish local officials were making enlistments for the purpose of giving him trouble, by raising insurrectionary bands; and that intrigues were on foot with the Servians, Montenegrins, and Albanians, whom he could not allow to make common cause. It was therefore urgent that some precautionary measures should be taken, and that the rights reserved to Austria by the Treaty of Berlin should be thoroughly safe-guarded. His Excellency reminded me that I had lived long enough on the seaboard of the Adriatic to have convinced myself, at any rate as regards Albania and Montenegro, that the politics of the people are actuated by jealousies and carried on by intrigue; and if he was urgent in his efforts to conclude the Convention with the Porte, it was simply because he saw that it would be folly not to take immediate steps to counteract the mischief which a combination of the enemies of Austria was undoubtedly plotting against her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 710.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 16, 1879.*

I OBSERVED to Count Andrassy last night that the publication of the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus of the 26th January last by the "Politische Correspondenz" of Vienna, had not only produced an excellent effect here, but had led to a question as to its authenticity being asked in the House of Commons; and I

inquired of his Excellency whether he knew how the document, which had been communicated to him confidentially, had fallen into the hands of the semi-official journal.

Count Andrassy said that he had been himself startled at its appearance, and had at once ordered a strict inquiry as to the way in which it had been divulged. The editor of the "Politische Correspondenz," M. Hirschfield, had explained that he received his copy from Constantinople, and Count Andrassy was convinced that no one at the Vienna Foreign Office had been guilty of this breach of confidence. His Excellency added that he would be much obliged if I would inform Lord Salisbury to this effect. He was all the more desirous to make it clear (he laughed as he made this remark), because, as I knew, he had before now remonstrated at the publication in the Blue Book of certain despatches affecting himself which he thought would have been better omitted; and he would be the last person in the world to retaliate in a similar fashion.

With regard to the effect of the publication, Count Andrassy agreed with me that it had been excellent and seasonable.

I must confess that considering that publicity was given to this despatch just before the plenary sittings of the Delegations, and when reports were current, and finding credence here, that England had too much on her hands to retain the liberty of action in South Eastern Europe, I should have been inclined, had it not been for Count Andrassy's explicit disavowal, to have believed that the semi-official correspondence had derived its inspiration from a quarter not so distant as Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 711.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 25.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 17, 1879.*

I AM confidentially informed that the language used by Count Andrassy to his Hungarian friends during his recent stay in this capital, with respect to the position of affairs in the East of Europe, was that of a much discouraged man, and that it has left the impression on the minds of many of them that the complications which his Excellency foresees are so serious that he would be almost glad to be relieved of any further responsibility in regard to them. He seems to have admitted that the difficulties in the way of coming to an agreement with the Porte about Novi-Bazar are insuperable, and that any advance into that sandjak can only be carried out in the sense of direct hostilities with Turkey.

An eminent member of the Hungarian Delegation told me that Count Andrassy, in a private conversation with him, had alluded both to the administration of Bosnia and to the mixed occupation, and had enlarged on the complications attending the arrangements of both these questions, and my informant said that the Count seemed to have no practical ideas as to the solution of either.

I am bound to write with diffidence on such subjects, but think it right to report what seems to have been the tenour of Count Andrassy's language to those Hungarians who are his intimates, and to add, as so far confirmatory of what I hear, that his Excellency ended a conversation with me upon the aspect of Eastern affairs by a very strong reference to the elements which threaten a still more general confusion in the Baltic Peninsula.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 712.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 20th instant, I informed Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had directed Major-General Hunley, of the Royal Artillery, who succeeds Colonel Home as British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier, to proceed next week to Constantinople.

His Excellency said that the Austrian Commissioner will also be instructed to leave next week for the same destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 713.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

IN conversations which I had yesterday with the Emperor and Count Andrassy, they both spoke of the obligations they felt themselves to be under to your Lordship with respect to the Austrian Convention with the Porte, and to the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, they said, the prospect of success is solely due.

With respect to the third point, respecting the treatment of Bosnians and Herzegovinians, alluded to in Mr. Malet's telegram which I received last night from your Lordship, Count Andrassy says that his object—which is to him a point of honour—is to insure that no Bosnians or Herzegovinians should be made to suffer in Turkey for having shown themselves in any way friendly to Austria; and this he proposes to reserve for a separate agreement, as it cannot well be arranged by the proposed Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 714.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No 172.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy yesterday I told him that since he spoke to me a few days ago against having an hereditary Prince for Bulgaria, a careful examination of the IIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin had made it appear to me much less clear than he had supposed that the proposed Organic Statute would be at variance with it, if it adopted the hereditary principle.

The Article only laid down what was to be done in the event of a vacancy in the "dignité Princière," which might be maintained to be different from the demise or departure of the first elected Prince.

Count Andrassy answered that if those indeed were the words, the case was certainly far from being as clear as he had thought it, and he was much obliged to me for having pointed them out to him, but it did not alter his opinion of the inexpediency of laying down the hereditary principle in the Organic Statute, for it would, he thought, be better to leave it an open question, that could be adopted hereafter if thought expedient.

I had not then received your Lordship's telegram on this subject, which only reached me in the evening, but I observed that I was not aware of either the Porte or the Powers having a right to object to any part of the Organic Statute not at variance with the Treaty, which declared that it was to be freely elaborated by the Assembly of Notables.

I had alluded to the question in conversation with the Emperor, when His Majesty said that he had always imagined that the Prince was to be hereditary, and he was surprised to learn from me of the contrary opinion being held by Count Andrassy, who had not yet spoken to him on the subject.

It may therefore be assumed that Count Andrassy's opinion is not matured or fixed, but I have communicated to him your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and will take an early opportunity of ascertaining whether he will not adopt the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 715.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 173. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

I HAD yesterday some conversation with the Emperor. His Majesty began by saying that he had just had the satisfaction of receiving the news of the Russian Government having agreed to the adoption of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia in case of need, upon the evacuation of that province by their troops, and he intimated his belief that something of the kind would be requisite, as the Russians "avaient tout préparé" for the breaking out of an insurrection upon their departure. The accounts just received of the language at present held by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff made him believe the Emperor Alexander to be now in earnest in meaning that the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out, and that he had at last sent the Prince explicit instructions intimating that such was his resolution.

I remarked that on very many occasions we had been assured of the Emperor's determination loyally to execute his Treaty obligations, and to see them carried out to the letter.

His Majesty replied that this no doubt was the case, but he had been obliged to come to the conclusion that the instructions to the Russian authorities had hitherto been of a vague nature, leaving them uncertain of the policy they were really wished to pursue, or, indeed, he might say that the Imperial Cabinet seemed to him to have been following a double policy which should leave them free to adopt any course that appeared most advantageous when the critical moment arrived. This hesitation was he hoped now at an end.

It was impossible not to be struck with the marked contrast between the Emperor's language yesterday with that which he had held on a former occasion when I alluded to the discrepancy of the proceedings of the Russian authorities and the assurances of the Emperor Alexander.

His Majesty then said that the Emperor was ill-served and badly obeyed, and he almost resented the doubt which my remark seemed to imply of the loyal intentions of the Czar, but he appears now to recognize that a double policy has been followed, and equivocal instructions given.

The Emperor expressed the most lively sense of the obligation he was under to your Lordship for the assistance that had been given to Count Zichy in the matter of the Novi-Bazar Convention, which, thanks to the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, seemed at last likely to be concluded, and he took the opportunity of saying how much he regretted being absent from Vienna, when Sir Henry Layard, who had exerted himself so much about it, had passed through.

He was deeply touched by the extremely handsome subscriptions that were being made in England for the relief of the sufferers from the inundation at Szegedin, from whence he had just returned, after witnessing a scene of desolation that would baffle all description. In saying this the Emperor merely repeated what is in everybody's mouth, for the subscription list has called forth general remarks upon both the richness and the generosity of England, and the Hungarians, who are an impressionable race, are especially gratified by what they regard as an evidence of the sympathy between the two countries, of which they talk much and in which they feel a pride.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 716.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 22, 1879.*

I REPORTED to your Lordship recently that Count Andrassy had said he should have no objection to the nomination of an European Governor for Eastern Roumelia if the Porte thought fit to make it, but when I mentioned to him yesterday that your Lordship did not think it would be desirable, he said he concurred in considering that it might not be expedient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 717.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 22, 1879.

I WOULD beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to Mr. Monson's despatch No. 28 reporting the language of Baron Orczy respecting the proceedings of certain Austro-Hungarian subjects in Macedonia, and to submit that it is probable these persons have been engaged in what has been called the Austrian propaganda.

Count Andrassy also has spoken to me about Ljubobratic, saying that he would not be treated with much ceremony if caught in creating disorders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 718.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 22, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me that while firmly adhering to the principle that questions, upon which there may not be an unanimity of opinion among the members of the Demarkation Commission, must be decided by a majority, he would not be indisposed to adopt a suggestion made to him by Prince Reuss, by which that principle would be maintained though at the cost of some loss of time.

The suggestion was that, in the event of a difference of opinion, each Commissioner should report the matter to his Government, which should then declare whether they supported his views or adopted that of the other party.

When the different Cabinets had considered the questions at issue they would refer them back to their Commissioners, and the final decision would be come to by a majority, and he believes that the Russian Government might acquiesce in such an arrangement.

I inquired whether it was proposed to apply this arrangement to the frontier difficulty at Silistria, and though I got no distinct answer, I hardly think that it would be possible to avoid doing so if adopted for the other frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 719.

Count Andrassy to Count Karolyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Karolyi, March 25.)

M. le Comte, *Buda-Pesth, le* 14 *Mars*, 1879.

SIR HENRY ELLIOT m'a communiqué deux télégrammes dans lesquels Lord Salisbury expose sa manière de voir au sujet de la durée de l'occupation Russe en Bulgarie et dans la Roumélie Orientale, et du terme fixé pour l'évacuation complète de ces pays. J'ai l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence copie de ces deux pièces.

Le Cabinet de St. James ne croit pas que les termes du Traité justifieraient l'interprétation d'après laquelle l'évacuation devait être achevée le 3 Mai. Nous admettons que la rédaction de l'Article XXII peut faire naître des doutes à ce sujet. En nous reportant cependant à la discussion à laquelle cette question a donné lieu dans le Congrès, et nommément à la déclaration du Comte Schouvaloff consigné dans le Protocole de la cinquième séance, nous croyons ne pas nous tromper en affirmant qu'en votant l'évacuation graduelle les Plénipotentiaires ont eu en vue que l'évacuation devait être terminée à la date du 3 Mai, et non-seulement commencée.

Pour nous faire départir de cette interprétation stricte, il nous faudrait pouvoir compter sur les avantages que Lord Salisbury déduit de sa manière de voir. Nous convenons que si les Turcs pouvaient entrer dans la Roumélie Orientale avant l'évacuation complète de la province par les troupes d'occupation, tout intervalle dangereux serait évité. On devait procéder comme on vient de le faire à Andrinople, et dans les localités situés au midi de la Roumélie Orientale.

La présence de ses troupes engagerait la responsabilité de la Russie à l'égard des

désordres qu'on pourrait vouloir susciter. Le cas échéant, elle devait empêcher les Bulgares d'assister les Rouméliotes dans leur résistance contre les Turcs. De cette manière la tranquillité du pays pourrait être assurée par l'occupation Ottomane, ou par une occupation mixte, ou, enfin, par tout autre moyen sur lequel on serait tombé d'accord.

Si la Russie prête la main à une pareille combinaison, et si une entente s'établit à ce sujet, nous serions disposés à ne pas insister sur la stricte interprétation du Traité, et à nous contenter au terme du 3 Mai d'un commencement d'évacuation. Seulement il faudrait, selon nous, que ce commencement fut sérieux, de manière à ne laisser subsister aucun doute sur l'intention de la Russie de retirer ses troupes, et de terminer l'évacuation dans le plus bref délai possible.

C'est dans ce sens que nous envisageons l'interprétation de Lord Salisbury. Dans tous les cas il est entendu que l'occupation, et tout pouvoir exercé en vertu de l'occupation, doivent cesser le 3 Mai, ainsi que cela résulte clairement des stipulations du Traité.

Je prie votre Excellence d'exposer confidentiellement notre manière de voir au Cabinet de St. James et de m'informer s'il l'approuve, et s'il est disposé à procéder en conséquence.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ANDRASSY.

No. 720.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Karolyi, March 25.

(Confidential.)

IT has already repeatedly been incumbent on the Austro-Hungarian Government to contradict rumours insinuating an agitation on their part in Albania. Count Andrassy has endeavoured to reassure the Porte, by the most positive assurances, not only in this respect, but also in respect of supposed intentions on Austria-Hungary's part about Salonica. To doubt these assurances would be grossly to misapprehend our position and the ends we have in view. Our policy is, and will remain, the strict carrying out of the Treaty of Berlin and the definitive pacification of the Balkan Peninsula.

Count Andrassy gathers, from a Report of Count Zichy's, that Sir H. Layard had, on the force of a report from Mr. Palgrave, hinted at the presence of Austrian emissaries in Macedonia. The same piece of intelligence reached Count Zichy through the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Now we know that among the agitators infesting Macedonia there are some who, like Hubmayer and Ljubibratich, are of Austrian nationality. These are people of whose dangerous proceedings we have been long aware, and whom our Consulates have orders to watch over. We are also well aware that these people are utilized by other parties, who think they can screen themselves by circulating such rumours.

In respect to the allegations against us touching Albania; on the contrary, we have at present no safer ground than that of vague suppositions to go upon, whether in respect to the source from which they come, or to the tendency which they pursue. It is true that several Albanians have, at different times, inquired at our Consulates about the intentions we had in respect to themselves.

These officers have, in consequence thereof, been instructed to declare that nothing is further from our thoughts than to threaten Albania in any form or shape whatever; that, on the contrary, we only look upon as our task to protect them in their own interest, and, in conjunction with the Porte, against the possible threatening encroachments of Panslavism.

It is possible that these declarations may have been the occasion for the above-mentioned rumours, which totally misrepresent the facts with the object of turning them against us.

Count Andrassy desires me to make confidential, though very positive, declarations in the above sense to Lord Salisbury, who might perhaps also contribute to reassure the Porte.

No. 721.

Telegram communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, March 25.

(Confidential.)

TO meet the observations of the German Government, which has made difficulties about the majority principle, and has declined to counsel its acceptance to the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, we have added the following passages to the draft of the despatch addressed to Baron Langenau:—

"Si le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg accepterait ce principe nous serions tout disposés à entrer avec lui en un échange d'idées afin de trouver une modalité pour son application qui permettra à chaque Puissance de faire valoir ses arguments.

"Nous proposons que les Commissions de Délimitation décident à l'unanimité les questions sur lesquelles un accord peut être établi entre tous les membres. Celles qu'on ne pourrait pas résoudre de cette manière seraient déférées à la decision des Cabinets, sans que le travail de la Commission eut à en subir une interruption ou un arrêt. Les Cabinets chercheraient à s'entendre directement entre eux, et s'ils réussissaient à tomber d'accord, la question serait résolue. Seulement, dans le cas contraire, l'affaire serait de nouveau dévolue à la Commission, qui statuerait alors à la majorité des voix et en dernier ressort."

No. 722.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 25.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 22 Mars*, 1879.

L'ASSEMBLÉE de Tirnova a chargé une Commission de onze membres de rédiger un mémoire destiné aux Délégués des Puissances relatif aux griefs et aux vœux de la nation Bulgare. Le Prince Dondoukoff considère la remise de ce mémoire comme une démarche extra-Parlementaire. Bien que les Délégués soient tombés d'accord d'accepter en principe ce document sous réserve, notre Commissaire a reçu l'ordre de le repousser dans le cas où il lui serait présenté, comme contraire au Traité de Berlin. Je vous prie de faire des démarches auprès de son Excellence les Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour qu'il voulût bien transmettre à son Délégué des instructions dans le même sens.

No. 723.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. .)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 24*, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER assures me that the Aleppo Commission shall start by first steamer for Alexandretta, which is to-morrow week. He says that he has sent discretionary powers to Omar Pasha to liberate some of the prisoners if he think fit.

No. 724.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 246.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 24*, 1879.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to me this morning in reference to a mixed occupation, of which there seemed to me to be again question; I answered in the sense indicated by your Lordship's telegram of the 16th. I said that Her Majesty's Government considered as indispensable the consent of the Porte, that its troops should form part of the occupying force, and that its right under the Treaty should be maintained in full, but that an official answer to Russia had not been made when I last heard. His Excellency said he regarded the proposal as most dangerous—no one could foresee the result of a mixed occupation, but that in his opinion it meant severance of the province from the Empire: with regard to condition of the consent of the Porte he said that if the Powers accepted the proposal such consent would be necessarily wrung from it. I said that if the Porte had a well-organized force prepared to meet the difficulties which an occupation presented, it would materially influence the Powers in their decision, and I urged him to show signs of the possible creation of such a force without delay.

No. 725.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 248.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25*, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Mr. Henderson dated yesterday:—

"Omar Pasha intends sending an acting Governor to Zeitoun and liberate a number of the prisoners immediately he assumes the Government, Kiamil insists on acting as long as he remains. I hear he intends leaving on Saturday. I have ascertained to-day that Kiamil has been seizing openly and retaining letters to me, and has sent to Porte a false translation of one from Zeitoun. I beg that Embassy should claim possession of these letters and take cognizance of this matter."

No. 726.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 24*, 1879.

YOUNG Gueshoff has just called to tell me that his cousin is now quite separated from my deputation outside Eastern Roumelia. He is going with Beron of Kotal, [three groups undecypherable], is in the province, to inform Powers that the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia are willing to accept Treaty, and only ask for modifications in its application.

Young Gueshoff also begged me to call your Lordship's attention to the question of repatriation, as he fears the return of large bodies of Turks to district where their houses are now occupied by Bulgarians would lead to collision and disorder.

If the Turks are wise they will accept mixed occupation. If the institutions projected by Commission can once be set at work, they will be more popular than those of the Principalities, principally from being cheaper.

(Sent to Mr. Malet.)

No. 727.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 121.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 24*, 1879.

AT to-day's sitting we passed formally Italian Commissioner's Chapter on agriculture. This leaves absolutely nothing but "real property" and the remnants of militia and gendarmerie.

We had Schmidt before us, and I examined him on his letter of resignation. The principle of a majority having been adopted, I proposed a resolution as follows: "The Commission declares that, on account of difficulties raised by certain Russian authorities, and on account of state of excitement of population, it has not been able to put in execution the stipulations of Article No. XIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and, in order to discharge all its responsibility, it calls the attention of the Cabinets to this declaration." Austria, England, France, Italy, and Turkey voted for it; Russia voted against. [? Germany] abstained on the ground that the Commission was not entitled to communicate with the Cabinets. The motion was therefore carried.

I then proposed a second paragraph, separated from the first at the request of German Commissioner: "At the same time the Commission pray M. Schmidt to resume his functions in measure in which he can exercise them until dissolution of the Commission." This was voted by six Commissioners; the Russians abstaining.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 728.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 24, 1879.*

IT seems to me very important that immediate advantage should be taken of the materials now in our hands for a final understanding about Roumelia. The fact of Turks being ready to forego occupation of Balkans for the present will greatly facilitate arrangement. As I am pretty certain that neither Prince Gortchacow nor M. de Giers, nor probably others, really approve of joint occupation, it is to be feared if we do not close with Count Schouvaloff's proposal, which at the moment he may be strong enough to enforce, the whole thing may fall through. Prince Gortchacow may renew his impracticable suggestions and interpose fresh delays with a view to prolonging crisis. An Italian or French contingent would be almost necessary in order to reconcile the Emperor to participation of Austria. It might be best to found our reply on Prince Gortchacow's Memorandum, enclosed in my despatch No. 31 of the 19th instant, and accept unreservedly proposal for instructions to be sent to English and Russian Ambassadors in the sense agreed upon between him and me. It would be desirable to reject, in the most positive terms, his second proposition about application to European Cabinets by Governor-General about use of troops, and substitute for it a counter suggestion for continuance of Commission in Roumelia as a consultative council attached to the Governor-General without executive powers, except in respect to the employment of the foreign contingents in the event of resistance to the constituted authorities; the vote of majority to prevail. In accepting third proposition, I do not know whether Count Schouvaloff's idea of Russian troops passing beyond the Balkans on condition of Turkish contingent remaining for the present outside the province, will approve itself to you. Giers does not seem to like it very much. With regard to Rustem Pasha, it will be a great advantage if I knew how far I could depend on General Chanzy to act loyally with me in pressing this and the other suggested arrangements on this Government.

I saw Emperor yesterday at a parade for five minutes. He seemed anxious for your reply.

If we do not pin these people down to a definite arrangement now, and while Emperor is still here, Prince Gortchacow will merely use Count Schouvaloff's proposal for a mixed occupation as a proof of Russia's genuine desire to maintain order in Roumelia, throwing upon Europe the responsibility of everything which may happen hereafter, including perhaps something which they will affect to treat as a *fait accompli*. I will therefore ask permission to be very decided in what I may be instructed to say.

No. 729.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 24, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has just been here with me again. He intreats you to modify your two reserves, especially as regards entry of Turks. He said everything, peace itself, depended on your decision. He spoke with disgust of everybody, both here and in the East, and seemed in bad spirits.; if it could be done I would agree. Perhaps location of Turks in a Roumelian sea-port would prove an acceptable compromise, but I did not like to suggest this idea without instructions.

No. 730.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 24, 1879.*

M. DE GIERS informs me that General Stolipine has been authorized by the Emperor to commute the sentence pronounced against Osman Bey.

(Sent to Wolff.)

No. 731.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 25, 1879.*

A MAN on horseback fired two shots at General Drentslen, Chief of the Secret Police, as he was driving out this morning; the General was not touched; assailant escaped.

No. 732.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879, 6 A.M.*

I HAVE agreed to the Russian proposal for mixed occupation in the following form, which without mentioning the Turks, includes the reserves I made on Friday:—

"If the other Signatory Powers consent to the occupation of Eastern Roumelia by a mixed force, consisting of contingents from such of the Signatory Powers as are willing to take part in it, England will consent and will take part."

Russian Chargé d'Affaires insisted that Turkey had already given consent by signing the fifth Protocol without protest. I said I was unable to accept that argument, as there was nothing to show that Turkey's signature implied approval of Count Andrassy's proposal rather than of Count Schouvaloff's objection. He further insisted that Article XV of Treaty, while it permitted Turkey to place her troops on the frontier, forbade her to place them in the interior except in case of disorder, and disorder was not to be expected in face of an European occupation.

I said that as matter of right it was not equitable to admit contingents from all the other Powers and exclude those of the Sovereign of the country. It was possible, however, I said, that though we could not agree on principles, the difficulty might not arise in practice. Perhaps Turkey would prefer to place her forces on the frontiers rather than the interior; and I specially indicated Bourgas and Ichtiman. Before going further, I said I thought it would be better to ascertain the disposition of Turkey. I again insisted on the full maintenance of the Treaty, and on the necessity of small contingents in order to spare the finance of the province. I agreed to prolongation of Commission if all Powers desired it.

No. 733.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879, 6·10 A.M.*

I QUITE approve of all that you have said. Continue to insist on majority principle in Commission if it be entrusted with the command of any military force.

No. 734.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879, 6 A.M.*

RUSSIA has proposed mixed occupation, and we have consented to it on condition that all Signatory Powers consent to it, and that all have liberty to take part in it.

Russia proposes also prolongation of Commission to inaugurate Governor-General, to advise him during the first year, and to dispose of occupying force. We are willing to consent to this, provided the decisions are taken by majority. The question of the mode in which the Turks are to take part is still matter of discussion; and, indeed, need not be settled until the willingness of Turks is ascertained.*

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* Repeated to Rome, Vienna, Paris, and Berlin, at 6·10 A.M.

No. 735.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879, 6·15 A.M.

DO not speak of my telegram of to-day as to mixed occupation till matters have gone further. In consenting to prolongation of Commission, of course I have in no way pledged your personal action, or that of Donoughmore. We are very sensible of the labour and sacrifice you have already undergone, and shall not be surprized if you prefer to come home when the Constitution is reported, though very glad of your services so long as you can give them. Under existing circumstances, I see no objection to your adjourning to Constantinople for the final discussion.

No. 736.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879, 2·25 P.M.

SPEAK to Grand Vizier confidentially on the subject of mixed occupation. All the Powers consent to it: all, except Germany and France, are ready to take part in it. The proposal would be to place a mixed force of about 10,000 men under command of Commission, who would be continued for a year. They would keep order in the interior of the province for that time, at the end of which institutions would be established and work slowly. Turks would occupy Bourgas and some station near Ichtiman in force; if they wished it, some Balkan station.

Her Majesty's Government would not suggest compliance to the Turkish Government if any prospect appeared of Turkish forces being ready to do the work. But with 50,000 armed Bulgarians in Roumelia, with a probable rebellion in Macedonia, and a certainty that in case of trouble Greece will take advantage of it, with an exchequer for the moment empty, I fear Turkey will not have force sufficient in time, and that the outbreak of a rebellion in Eastern Roumelia might lead to utter ruin. Her Majesty's Government therefore advise compliance. As English and Italian forces will be present, no harm can result to Turkey. If the offer is refused, rebellion will break out the moment the Russians have left, and Turkey must meet it alone.

No. 737.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879.

IF Prince Gortchacow should press for a reply to his Memorandum of the 19th March you may reply that we will instruct our Ambassador at Constantinople to urge on Porte energetically to maintain inviolate privileges which shall be granted to Eastern Roumelia; but that we cannot consent to make a previous consent of the Powers necessary in order to enable Governor-General to summon troops for the suppression of disorder.

No. 738.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 244 of the 23rd instant the matter is not one in which England seems to be much interested. Your action will be influenced by the attitude you think it wise to assume towards French Ambassador.

No. 739.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879.

PRAY assure Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in acording so far as we have done to Russian proposal for mixed occupation, we believe we are in no degree departing from Treaty of Berlin, and that we shall set a high value on the co-operation of Italy.

No. 740.

Lord Tenterden to Major Clarke.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879.

LORD Salisbury wishes Captain Gill to go to Constantinople on Thursday, to advise Turks unofficially until your arrival.

Please put him in possession of such information as he will require for that purpose.

No. 741.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 25, 1879, 2·15 P.M.

I HAVE conveyed to M. Depretis thanks of Her Majesty's Government, as directed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

To prevent possibility of misunderstandings, I have read to his Excellency my telegrams Nos. 23 and 24 of the 22nd instant, the accuracy of which he confirmed.

(Confidential.) Pending further communications from Her Majesty's Government, his Excellency said he proposed, if I agreed, to reply to Russian Ambassador, who is pressing for an answer, to the following effect: "The Italian Government still continues to consider proposed measures as very serious, and would be disposed to side ('se rallier') with any Power which advocated the strict execution of the Treaty. Nevertheless, if all the Powers, including Turkey, agree to an occupation, if Turkish troops are allowed to take part in it, and England also sends a contingent, the Italian Government will not oppose it, and would even be prepared to join it."

I said I saw no objection to this.

The financial question having been again alluded to, I asked him in what manner assistance could be given, if the idea should be entertained.

M. Depretis said by transport and helping the Italian Government to raise a small loan in England on easier terms than they could get it on their own account.

No. 742.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1879.

M. BARTHOLOMEI called upon me yesterday, when I placed in his hands the Memorandum of which a copy is inclosed, containing the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal of the Russian Government for a mixed military occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

Your Excellency will note that the form, although it does not specifically name the Turks, includes the reserves I made last Friday, and which are explained in my despatch No. 92 of that date.

M. Bartholomei insisted that Turkey had already signified her assent to this mixed occupation by the fact of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries having affixed their signatures to the 5th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin without offering any protests to the proposal made by Count Andrassy providing for the presence of foreign auxiliary troops.

I said in reply that I was unable to accept this argument, as there was no evidence

that the signatures of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries implied the approval of Count Andrassy's proposition any more than of the objections which were raised to it by Count Schouvaloff.

M. Bartholomei then proceeded to insist that although Turkey was permitted by Article XV of the Treaty of Berlin to place her troops on the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, she was debarred from establishing them within the province, except in the case of disorder, and that in the face of an European occupation the fear of the occurrence of disorder need not be entertained.

I stated that as a matter of right it would not be equitable that contingents from all the other Powers should be admitted while those of the Sovereign of the country were excluded. It was possible, however, in my opinion, that although we could not agree upon principles, the difficulty might not arise in practice. Turkey, I said, would, perhaps, prefer to places her forces on the frontiers rather in the interior of the province, and I specially indicated Bourgas and Ichtiman as desirable places for that purpose. But before entering into further details upon this point, I said I thought it would be desirable to ascertain the disposition of Turkey.

I expressed a hope that the numbers of the occupying army would be restricted to as small a number as possible, in order to spare the finances of a province which was not rich.

As to the proposal to extend the duration of the Commission, I intimated that the objection would be made to it on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

In conclusion, I impressed upon M. Bartholomei that Her Majesty's Government must continue to insist upon the Treaty of Berlin being fully maintained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 742.

Memorandum communicated by the Marquis of Salisbury to M. Bartholomei, March 24, 1879.

IF the other Signatory Powers consent to the occupation of Eastern Roumelia by a mixed force, consisting of contingents from such of the Signatory Powers as are willing to take part in it, England will consent, and will take part.

No. 743.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

YOUR despatches to No. 36 inclusive of the 19th instant have been received, and will be laid before the Queen.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve all that you have said to the Emperor and to His Majesty's Ministers upon the present aspect of affairs in connection with the Eastern question.

Your Excellency should continue to insist, that if the proposal is agreed upon to entrust the European Commission with the direction of any foreign military force which may be sent to occupy Eastern Roumelia, the principal shall be adopted that all questions shall be determined by the votes of the majority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 744.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

I HAVE authorized your Excellency this day by telegraph to inform Prince Gortchakoff, should he press for a reply to his Memorandum of the 19th instant, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will be instructed to urge the Porte energetically

to maintain inviolate the privileges which shall be secured to Eastern Roumelia by the Constitution now being elaborated by the International Commission, but that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to accept the proposal that the previous consent of the Powers must be obtained by Turkey, in order to enable the Governor-General to summons troops for the repression of disorder within the province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 745.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 397 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

THE Turkish Ambassador came to me to-day with respect to the financial position of his Government.

After dwelling on the necessity of taking some action, and describing the serious difficulties in which the Porte was at present plunged for want of ready money, his Excellency proceeded to point out the nature of the remedy which he would desire to see employed. His view, which he stated to be also the view of his Government, was that it was not desirable any longer to invoke the assistance of the Ottoman Bank, or of any other of the financial houses by whose action Turkey had already been seriously impoverished, and who had invariably charged a usurious interest for any assistance they had given. He desired to make independent proposals, founded on the idea of paying off the bondholders of 1858 and 1862 at the rate of about 300,000*l.* for 900,000*l.* of debt, and applying the customs of Constantinople, which he said would be thereby liberated, to furnish the interest of a new loan. This loan he said would be raised if England would name the Commissaries by whom the Customs revenues should be received and paid over.

I requested Mussurus Pasha to let me have his proposals in writing as speedily as possible, at the same time noting that the repudiation of the assistance of the Ottoman Bank and its allied establishments was entirely a new feature in the transaction, and that it would necessarily modify to a considerable degree the prospect of success.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 746.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 397 B.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has informed me that his Government are averse to the project of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, though he did not exclude the hope that they would give way to the views of Her Majesty's Government on the point.

I represented to his Excellency that I thought any such decision on the part of the Porte would be imprudent. I pointed out to him that there was a large force in Eastern Roumelia of armed militia which, if there were no troops present to control them, would be certain to attempt some enterprise adverse to the authority of the Turkish Government. I said that Turkey, in her present impoverished condition, and with many claims upon her for military action in various quarters, was not in a condition to interfere with any assurance of success, and that if she failed entire ruin would be the consequence.

His reply was that the Turkish force was a very considerable one, and that his Government felt perfectly confident of being able to defeat any force that the Bulgarians could bring against them.

I reminded him that a confidence of the same undoubting kind had been felt and expressed by himself and by other Ottoman authorities a little more than two years ago; that they had then been warned by Her Majesty's Government of the delusive character of their expectations, and that the accuracy of that warning had been confirmed disastrously by events. I feared, I said, that if they refused the offer made now, a similar disappointment awaited them, and that it would involve them in a catastrophe which could not be repaired.

Musurus Pasha, in the course of this conversation, plainly intimated that his fear of Austria was, on the whole, greater than his fear of Russia. The latter Power, he seemed to think, was so distrusted by all Europe that the danger Turkey ran from her was not very great. No such distrust, however, was felt of Austria. England had made great efforts to secure the evacuation of Bulgaria by the Russians, but she had made no efforts to secure the evacuation of Bosnia by the Austrians. Turkey, therefore, was not inclined, for the sake of getting rid of Russia, from whom they were protected by the jealousy of the Powers, to admit Austria, against whom they had no such defence.

I again reminded his Excellency that two years ago the Porte had trusted to the jealousy of the Powers to furnish it with a defence, and that this expectation had failed it. It was to be feared, I said, that events would give as little countenance to the calculation on which he was now relying.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 747.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 399. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

YOU have been made acquainted by telegraph with the substance of the communications which have recently taken place between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia relative to a proposal on the part of the latter for a mixed occupation by foreign troops of Eastern Roumelia.

I have instructed you to mention to the Grand Vizier confidentially what has passed on this subject.

You have been instructed to inform his Highness that all the other Powers, Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, are prepared to consent to this measure, and that with the exception of France and Germany, they are all prepared to supply a contingent.

It is proposed that a mixed force of about 10,000 men should be placed in the province, which should be under the direction of the International Commission; and that it should be maintained there for twelve months.

Its duties would be to maintain order in the interior of the province during that time, at the expiration of which the new institutions would be established, and gradually coming into operation.

The Turkish troops would occupy Bourgas and some station near Ichtiman in force, and if they desire it some station in the Balkans.

If there were any reasonable prospect that the Turkish forces would be prepared in time to do the work which it is proposed to intrust to the foreign contingent, Her Majesty's Government would not suggest to the Turkish Government that they should comply with this proposal. But in view of the present situation of the Empire, of the presence in Roumelia of some 50,000 armed Bulgarians, of the probability of a rebellion in Macedonia, of which Greece would be certain to take advantage, and with an Exchequer for the moment empty, there is every reason to fear that the Porte will not have a sufficient force organized by the time fixed for the Russian evacuation, and that the outbreak of a rebellion in Eastern Roumelia might lead to confusion and ruin.

Her Majesty's Government therefore advise the Porte to give its consent to the proposal. The presence of English and Italian troops as a portion of the occupying force should offer a sufficient guarantee that Turkish interests will not suffer. If the offer is refused, it is necessary to contemplate the certain outbreak of rebellion as soon as the Russian troops leave the country, a rebellion which Turkey will have to meet in that case with her own resources alone.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 748.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 401.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

YOU will have learnt from a telegram which I have addressed to you to-day, in reply to yours No. 244 of the 23rd instant, that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the question of the recognition of Monsignor Hassoon as Armenian Patriarch by the Porte is not one in which this country is much interested.

I presume that your action with regard to supporting the wishes of the French Ambassador on this subject will be in some degree guided by your general relations with his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 749.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 158. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

YOU will have learnt from a telegram which I have sent you to-day that the Russian Government have proposed a mixed occupation of the Province of Eastern Roumelia on its evacuation by the Russian troops, and that Her Majesty's Government have agreed to this arrangement on condition that all the Signatory Powers consent to it, and that they shall all be at liberty to take part in it.

The Russian Government have also proposed that the Commission for the reorganization of Eastern Roumelia should be prolonged for a period of one year after the inauguration of the Governor-General of the province, in order that he may have the benefit of its advice during that time, and that it may superintend the disposal of the troops who will form the occupying force.

Her Majesty's Government are willing to consent to this proposal, provided that the decisions of the Commission shall be settled by the majority of votes, and that unanimity shall not be required.

The question as to the part to be taken in the proposed mixed occupation by the Turkish forces is still under discussion, and, indeed, it will be unnecessary to settle this matter until it has been ascertained whether the Porte is willing to give its consent to the arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 750.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 160. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

IN a Confidential telegram which I have addressed to you to-day, I have requested you not to speak about the contents of my preceding telegram of this day's date on the subject of the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia until the matter has been further discussed. I have added that, in consenting to the second suggestion of the Russian Government, that the Commission for the reorganization of the province should be prolonged for a period of one year after the inauguration of the Governor, Her Majesty's Government have in no way pledged your personal action, or that of Lord Donoughmore. They are very sensible of the sacrifices you have already undergone, and fully appreciate the exertions you have made to complete the task entrusted to the Commission. They would not, therefore, be surprised if you should desire to return to England as soon as the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia has been definitively settled. They would, however, have very great satisfaction in availing themselves of your services for as long a period as you can conveniently give them.

Her Majesty's Government do not, under existing circumstances, see any objection to the proposal to adjourn the sittings of the Commission to Constantinople for the final discussion of the draft Statute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 751.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 149.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 147 of the 24th instant, I have to instruct your Excellency to assure Signor Depretis that Her Majesty's Government believe that in acceding, so far as they have done, to the proposal of the Russian Government relative to a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, they are in no degree departing from the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

You will add that Her Majesty's Government will attach a high value to the co-operation of Italy in this project.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 752.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 149 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1879.*

The Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and pressed for an answer in respect to the project of a mixed occupation in Eastern Roumelia.

I informed his Excellency exactly how the matter stood, and what were the conditions under which England was ready to accept and to participate in it.

I at the same time intimated to General Menabrea that the co-operation of Italy was a matter of very considerable importance, because the impartial position of Italy, free on all hands from any suspicion of the desire for territorial aggrandisement, would give to the presence of her troops the character of a guarantee, which would be highly valued by all who desired to prevent the further disintegration of the Ottoman Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 753.

Pertew Effendi to Carathéodory Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 26.)

Tirnovo, le 21 Février, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de soumettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, la liste des Membres de l'Assemblée des Notables, dont la réunion est fixée à demain.

Par mon Rapport No. 32 j'avais eu soin de communiquer au Ministère Impérial les données que je m'étais procurées indirectement sur le mode de recrutement qu'on se proposait d'adopter pour la convocation de cette Assemblée. A l'exception de quelque écart numérique dans chaque catégorie de Membres, sa composition, telle qu'elle figure sur cette liste, reste conforme aux données consignées dans mon susdit Rapport.

Cette liste se décompose comme suit: 10 Evêques Bulgares, 1 Evêque Grec, 1 Mufti (celui de Widdin), 1 Rabbin (celui de Sophia), 75 Présidents de Cours Judiciaires et de Conseils Administratifs, 30 Présidents de Conseils Municipaux (ces derniers d'après les règlements provisoires en vigueur sont nommés par élection), 89 Membres élus par suffrages populaires, 3 Députés appartenant à des sociétés Bulgares Ecclésiastiques et laïques résidant à l'étranger, 21 Membres nommés par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie. Soit en tout, 231 Membres.

En défalquant de ce nombre 89 Députés élus par suffrages et les 30 Présidents Municipaux, le reste, presque la moitié des Membres, se trouve désigné soit directement, soit indirectement, par l'autorité du Prince Dondoukoff.

Il est à remarquer que sur ces 231 Membres, l'élément Musulman ne compte en tout que 13 Représentants, le Mufti y compris. La part restreinte faite aux Musulmans provient, tout d'abord, de ce qu'il n'en figure pas un parmi les 105 Présidents, et ensuite, des illégalités et de l'arbitraire qui ont eu leur part dans les élections populaires. Je n'ai pas pu me procurer jusqu'ici des informations complètes à ce sujet. Mais celles que j'ai puisées à bonne source, par rapport aux élections du Sandjak de Varna, confirment mes préventions. Les élections devant avoir lieu d'après le système à deux degrés, on avait établi que dans les villes un groupe de cinquante maisons aurait à désigner un électeur; pour la population rurale, les Musulmans devaient fournir un électeur par trois ou quatre villages; les Grecs, un électeur par deux villages; et les Bulgares, un à trois électeurs par chaque village. Outre ces restrictions, la nomination de douze Musulmans électeurs a été invalidée à Varna, sous le prétexte qu'ils n'avaient pas leurs familles auprès d'eux; ils furent remplacés par des Bulgares.

L'élection des Députés n'a pas été, non plus, exempte de toute intervention illégale. Les électeurs avaient par groupes de 200 à désigner un Député. Dans le Sandjak de Varna, ils ont donné leurs votes à Osman Bey, Mufti Effendi, et Halil Effendi. Le premier seul a été confirmé; les deux autres ont été remplacés par des Bulgares.

On m'assure également qu'à Roustchouk les mêmes irrégularités ont produit le même résultat. Les Députés élus par ce dernier Sandjak étaient Rachid Agha et Moustapha Effendi. Le premier, quoique revenu de Choumla, où il s'était réfugié provisoirement, a été écarté comme émigré, et remplacé par un Bulgare; et le second, malgré la majorité des suffrages, a dû céder la place à un certain Emir Agha.

Mais ce qui surtout peut nous donner la mesure de l'arbitraire qui a présidé à la composition de cette Assemblée, c'est la considération que, parmi les 105 présidents, et les Députés directement nommés par le Commissaire Impérial de Russie, on compte un nombre assez considérable de gens appartenant, soit à la Roumélie Orientale, soit à la Macédoine, que les circonstances actuelles ont attirés en Bulgarie. N'ayant pas eu encore le temps nécessaire pour recueillir des indications précises à ce sujet, il me serait difficile, pour le moment, de les désigner nominalement. Du reste, le Prince Dondoukoff n'en fait pas un mystère. Il dit que la Bulgarie, ne possédant pas un nombre suffisant d'hommes d'une certaine instruction, il ne pouvait se passer des intelligences Bulgares appartenant aux contrées avoisinantes.

Que votre Excellence me permette d'entrer maintenant dans quelques considérations, en partie consignées dans mes rapports antérieurs, sur les circonstances qui ne pouvaient manquer de produire cet état de choses.

Dès le moment où je fus informé que le Commissaire Impérial de Russie était décidé à convoquer l'Assemblée des Notables à Tirnovo, j'avais porté toute mon attention sur le mode qui allait être adopté pour procéder à sa composition.

Deux conditions étaient indispensables pour rendre ma tâche efficace: l'acceptation franche, par le Commissaire Extraordinaire de l'Empereur en Bulgarie, du mandat d'assistance et de contrôle que je suis appelé à exercer auprès de lui, ainsi que celui des Délégués *ad hoc* des Puissances Signataires; et un concours réel de la part de ces derniers dans les efforts à déployer en ces circonstances.

Je dois avouer que ces deux conditions n'ont fait jusqu'ici défaut. Le Ministère Impérial n'ignore pas comment le Prince Dondoukoff, se refusant en général d'admettre l'interprétation logique de l'Article VI du Traité de Berlin, a essayé de tout temps de n'envisager notre mandat que comme un simple rôle d'observation, et comment il a étudié jusqu'ici toute obligation pour lui de nous mettre au courant, d'une façon sérieuse, de ses plans relativement à la composition de l'Assemblée, dont l'ouverture aura lieu demain. C'est ainsi qu'entr'autres expédients, il a subordonné aux instructions attendues de son Gouvernement, la communication des divers documents ayant trait à la Convocation, et qu'il s'est borné à nous faire tenir au dernier moment une simple liste de Députés.

Quant à un concours réel de la part de MM. les Délégués *ad hoc*, Je regrette de dire qu'il ne m'a pas été permis jusqu'ici d'y faire grand fond.

Outre la réserve qui semble leur être recommandée par les instructions de leurs Gouvernements, ces messieurs ne se regardent même pas jusqu'ici constitués en corps pour exercer une action collective en dehors de laquelle ils déclarent ne pouvoir agir.

Ce qui donne lieu à cette abstention de leur part, c'est la question de l'exclusion du nombre des Délégués *ad hoc* de M. l'Agent Diplomatique de Russie. Cet incident

qui semblait être clos, une fois pour toutes, par les instructions supplémentaires qu'avaient reçues les Délégués d'Angleterre et d'Italie, est de nouveau mis sur le tapis à l'occasion de l'arrivée de M. le Délégué d'Allemagne. Ce dernier ayant déclaré que, pour sa part, il n'était pas autorisé à refuser à M. Davidoff la qualité de Délégué *ad hoc*, ses collègues sont forcés de reconsidérer non constitués en corps avant que cette question préalable ne soit résolue pour tous.

Telle est, M. le Ministre, la situation qui m'est faite ici, et qui m'oblige, en toute circonstance, à agir avec une grande réserve pour éviter tout conflit conformément aux instructions de votre Excellence.

J'ai, &c.

No. 754.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 25, 1879.*

I QUITE agree with your Lordship in thinking that there would be obvious objections to treating Bosnians out of their province as having lost their nationality.

I have pointed out that it would be a new and inconvenient practice to allow capitulations to be applied to Mahommedans, and that even foreigners who became Mussulmans were always held to be subject to the Turkish law and authority.

No. 755.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 25, 1879.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called this afternoon on Count Tornielli to announce acceptance of Russian proposal by his Government and to urge Italian Government to do the same.

The reply was that they must await further communications with other Governments.

No. 756.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 122. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 25, 1879.*

MR. CALVERT has obtained a copy of Insurrectionary Programme, which was approved by the Committee on Sunday, the 23rd March. It is as follows:—

"On the 13th April the Bulgarians will collect at Philippopolis, and they will burn town and kill all Turks and Greeks. One portion of the Bulgarian forces will occupy positions in Balkans. Every Bulgarian shall have about sixteen pounds of ammunition and biscuit, reserve provisions to be carried by peasant-carts. If beaten, Bulgarians will withdraw into the Balkans, laying waste plain and destroying towns and villages. The centre [?] Balkans is to be at Ottenkedivii with 50,000 troops, under the command of Baron Wolff, a Russian functionary. Names of officers to command the different corps are designated, and the numbers of corps, which seem greatly exaggerated. Women and children are to be sent to Sofia. 120 Russian officers, 5,000 soldiers, and 10,000 Bulgarians are to be drafted into insurgent ranks. The Moscow Committee pay expenses. In case of failure 50,000 Bulgarians of north are to reinforce them." Two Articles are to be added. Mr. Calvert saw the original draft.

The only evidence I have to corroborate this is, that within the last few days there has been an advertisement in the "Maritza," by the Eagle Society, convoking a great rifle meeting of all Bulgarian sharpshooters at Philippopolis for the 3rd day of Easter. The programme, though exaggerated, is [?] genuine.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 757.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 25, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegrams. Lord Donoughmore wishes to join with me in assuring your Lordship that our services are at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government so long as they are considered useful.

I think it will be indispensable for us to go for a short time to Constantinople, as the Ottoman Commissioners cannot obtain answers to their letters, the Porte being desirous to give them verbal instructions, which can later be repudiated. In fact, your telegram relieves me from embarrassment, as the other Commissioners have determined to go to Constantinople.

No. 758.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 249. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs said to me this morning that the Grand Vizier foresaw that it must soon be necessary for him to tell Sultan that His Majesty must change Ministry and allow his Highness to select his own Cabinet or resign, that he should carefully choose the moment for doing so, and that he thought he should be successful. His Highness therefore requested his Excellency to confer with me on the subject, and to inform me that he was ready to consider any suggestions I might offer with reference to formation of Cabinet and the persons who should compose it. I replied that present state of the Ministry impeded the execution of his Highness's policy and the progress of the country towards rest, but that I trusted his Highness would make sure of success before executing his intention, as he at present served at least as a counterpoise to unenlightened influence. I had been too short time in the country to be able to submit at once names of persons whom I should desire to see in the Ministry [? but] I suggested Moukhtar Pasha as Minister of War and said that Said Pasha of Angora enjoyed Sir H. Layard's confidence. I observed that the difficult selection was Minister of Finance. Turkey had none who were competent. I proposed that a foreign Under-Secretary of Finance should be named, who should have the real control. I thought such an appointment would avoid the interference of the Powers occasioned by the title of Administrator. Minister for Foreign Affairs proceeded to say that he himself was ready to stand or fall with the Grand Vizier. He begged me to keep the matter an absolute secret, and said he should come in a few days to hear any further suggestions which I might have to make.

I believe that if Grand Vizier had a Cabinet which worked with him he might extricate the country from its difficulties. His views are large. He wishes for radical reforms, and by this communication to me he clearly proposes to throw himself into the arms of England.

No. 759.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 250. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs said to me to-day that he had spoken with the Grand Vizier on the subject of a mixed occupation; that they both felt that it would be a leap in the dark fraught with danger to Turkey; and that it was opposed to the Treaty of Berlin, as it must prolong occupation. His Excellency said that they thought that in order to save themselves from this they had better support the nomination of a foreign Governor, which was not contrary to the Treaty, and which, from all intelligence they received, would be a concession which the Roumeliotes were ready

to accept as satisfaction in full. He begged me to consider the conversation as unofficial, since he knew sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, and that I could not recommend such a step. Of the two dangers, he considered a foreign Governor as less serious than a mixed occupation, which they should be forced to consent to if the Powers proposed it. If they did not, the moment troubles arose it would be said that they had brought them on themselves by their refusal, and they would have lost the support of Europe.

His Excellency added that such a Governor should be a native of one of the smaller Powers. Though these countries did not furnish trained Administrators, it would be possible to find some one who would perform the few functions which were left to the Governor by the Roumelian Constitution.

No. 760.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1879.*

A DESPATCH from Consul Calvert, dated the 23rd March, states that Réouf Pasha informs him that every part of the Province of Adrianople is now completely evacuated by the Russian troops, and the Turkish pickets now occupy the whole border of Eastern Roumelia from end to end.

No. 761.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1879.*

CONSUL CALVERT reports, under date of 24th instant, that a Russian detachment still held railway from station at Mustapha-Pasha.

No. 762.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegram from Adrianople yesterday:—

"Réouf Pasha confirms statement that Mustapha-Pasha is still occupied by detachment under Russian Commander to watch emigration. Pasha assures me no Turkish field-battery has gone forward, but he considers talo about guns there to call for inquiry, as a Bulgarian battery was reported sent to Hermanli, where many munitions of war are being collected."

No. 763.

Consul-General Pulgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, March 25, 1879.*

THERE is a strong popular tendency here towards the election of brother of Prince Charles or brother of King of Greece as the best means to counteract Russia and counterbalance Servia, &c. If you desire, I think one or other could be easily elected.

No. 764.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 26, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED verbally this afternoon to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, stating conditions on which Her Majesty's Government are willing to assent to Russian proposals for a mixed occupation and the prolongation of Commission.

He repeated that France did not object in principle to the mixed occupation, but would not take part in it herself.

No. 765.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1879, 2·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 19 of yesterday, express to M. de Giers satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learned that the Emperor has been graciously pleased to commute sentence pronounced against Osman Bey.

No. 766.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1879.*

THE Circular despatch from Prince Gortchacow, of which a copy is inclosed herewith for convenience of reference, was handed to me, as your Excellency is already aware, on the 27th ultimo by the Russian Ambassador.

The principal object which his Highness apparently had in view in making this communication, and, in fact, the only definite proposition to which it gives expression, is a recommendation to the Powers to hasten as much as possible the reassembling of the Boundary Commissioners, who, under the Treaty of Berlin, are charged with the demarkation of the frontiers of Bulgaria. Her Majesty's Government immediately took measures to satisfy the views of the Russian Government, and I have delayed replying to the Circular until I was able to inform your Excellency that General Hamley, who has been appointed to represent the English Government in place of the lamented Colonel Home, was on the point of starting for Constantinople. We understand, however, that no time has been lost in consequence of the Commission not having yet met, inasmuch as the state of the weather still renders it impossible to commence the work of delimitation upon the Balkan chain.

In thus intimating the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government in the principal recommendation contained in the Circular, I must guard myself from the appearance of assenting to all the considerations by which it is enforced. Prince Gortchacow speaks of the situation having changed since the Congress of Berlin, and expresses the belief that a spirit of calmness and impartiality prevails now, which, if I interpret rightly his Highness' language, was, in his judgment, wanting then, and he feels confident that the views of the Cabinets must have become modified. The point in respect to which he anticipates this change is the necessity, which was felt and provided for at Berlin, of so tracing the Balkan frontier as to protect Turkey on that side from any danger of invasion.

Her Majesty's Government, speaking for themselves, were not able to discern any want of calmness in the deliberations of the Congress, nor have they seen cause to adopt any change of view since it took place. They are still of opinion that any danger of aggression by Turkey upon Bulgaria is too slight to be worth taking into account; but that invasion in the other direction is quite a possible contingency, and in all probability must continue to be so for a long time. The experience of history for many generations back, and the great diminution of strength which the Turkish Empire has suffered, afford a sufficient assurance against the fear of any attempt on the part of Turkey to resume by force the province which she has surrendered. But

the agitations which have been recently created among the Bulgarian people, and the aggressive designs which a party among them avowedly entertain, justify the apprehensions which dictated the phrase in Article II of the Treaty, to which Prince Gortchacow adverts.

In the close of his Circular his Highness opens a question of great importance and of no little difficulty, which may possibly acquire some prominence in connection with the delimitation of the frontiers indicated in the Treaty of Berlin. He recommends to the Powers to consider the course which should be taken in the event of a final divergence of opinion among the members of any international Commission. The recent case of the Dobrudscha boundary shows that the danger indicated by the Russian Government is far from being imaginary. In this case many of the elements of disagreement were absent. The point at issue was not a disputed military advantage, but a question of pure engineering. The frontier in process of being drawn separated the territories of Governments which had no antipathies of creed, no memories of recent domination to divide them, and which have every prospect of living upon friendly terms. Yet an insuperable subject of difference arose which divided the Commission in the proportion of six to one, and which is not yet adjusted. It cannot be considered improbable that the other lines of delimitation in which questions of strategic advantage are in issue should give more ample occasion for divergences of the same kind.

Her Majesty's Government are not disposed in any degree to underrate the importance of this difficulty. But they cannot see that it is capable of any possible solution except that which was adopted at the Congress of Berlin. In that Assembly a unanimous vote was required, according to general international usage, for all the more important class of decisions. But, for questions of frontier, adherence to this rule was found to be impracticable; and they were relegated to a Committee which was authorized to decide by the vote of the majority. Unless the Powers consent to establish a similar rule for the Commissions of Delimitation, it seems scarcely probable that their deliberations will lead to a definite and satisfactory result. Cases will arise in which the views of some of the Commissioners will prove to be incompatable with those of the remainder; and there is no reason to expect that if the minority refuse to yield, the majority will recognize that any obligation to do so is incumbent upon them. The result may possibly be that on a considerable number of points the frontier will remain unsettled, and the restoration of tranquillity to the neighbouring populations will be indefinitely delayed.

The Russian Government have evidently considered this subject with much care, and have foreseen the inconveniences to which I have adverted. Her Majesty's Government trust that they will recognize the advantage of establishing the only system of decision by which, in discussions of this character, it is possible to arrive at any settlement of controverted questions. It must not be understood that Her Majesty's Government desire an arrangement by which the wishes and opinions of the minority should be summarily overruled. Due precaution should be taken to submit any point of importance, on which the Commissioners should finally differ to the careful consideration of the Cabinets, so as to give full opportunity for suggestions which might be adopted as a satisfactory compromise on both sides. But if such adjustment should be found impossible, the decision of the majority should be accepted in preference to the indefinite prolongation of controversy.

Your Excellency will express yourself to Prince Gortchacow in the sense of this despatch, and if you should think it desirable you are authorized to furnish him with a copy of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 767.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1879.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having addressed the note to Prince Gortchacow, a copy of which was inclosed with your despatch No. 23 of the 15th instant, as a record of your conversation with his Highness on the previous day, upon the line of conduct to be pursued by this country and Russia in order to carry out the intentions of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the inhabitants of Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 769.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 256. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1879.*

I HAVE spoken confidentially to the Grand Vizier about mixed occupation. His Highness was at an extraordinary Council convened to discuss the question. The arguments of Her Majesty's Government produced great impression upon him. He said the project encountered serious opposition, both in the Council and, he feared, at the Palace. At his request, I wrote down the nature of the proposal and the reasons which induce Her Majesty's Government to recommend compliance, armed with which his Highness returned to Council.

(Sent to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.)

No. 770.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1879.*

THE argument which seemed the most influential with the Grand Vizier regarding mixed occupation was the empty Treasury. He said the Government had no revenues till the month of May, and was borrowing from day to day at ruinous interest. They could not economize without money, as they could neither disband troops nor send away useless officials without paying them to date. The paper currency was yesterday 1,000 paper piastres to 100 gold. I send by next messenger a despatch from Colonel Biddulph, in which he mentions the idea of capitalizing the Cyprus revenues at ten years' purchase. If, by this means, the Porte could at once find itself possessed of £T. 1,000,000 it would probably be inclined to finish Cyprus revenue negotiations at once, for it is in extreme distress. 4,750*l.* of borrowed money is being paid daily to the bakers here alone to keep down the price of bread.

No. 771.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, March 26, 1879.*

AFFAIRS require my presence at Sophia for a few days; I have the honour to request permission to go there during Easter recess of Assembly, taking Varna and Constantinople, where I much desire to consult Mr. Malet, on the way. I can leave this place on the 3rd April, returning on the 18th, if your Lordship approves. Nothing important will take place at Tirnovo during the interval.

No. 772.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 26, 1879.*

EXARCH called to-day to urge me to beg your Lordship to see M. Gueshoff and his companion. He says they are now quite detached from Bulgaria and Macedonia. They ask now only for suspension of Balkan garrisons and a European Governor, but can no longer guarantee that this will satisfy people, as the events of Slivno show they

have got beyond control of their leader; the latter had agreed to receive M. Schmidt. He says if the two points mentioned are not granted, the people are determined to resist entry of Turks even at risk of extermination.

Although there is exaggeration, matters are no doubt serious; measures sketched out in your telegram would be, I think, efficacious.

No. 773.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 26, 1879.*

WE have just passed the last Chapter and the Bye-laws. There are only four points open, viz., the languages, the revenue of province, the berats for Bishops, and vacouf. We are going to Constantinople on Monday to try and settle the questions. Please do not telegraph after Sunday.

No. 774.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879, 6 A.M.*

YOUR Excellency should take an early opportunity of informing Minister for Foreign Affairs that if a scheme for giving financial aid to the Porte, which we can approve, is brought forward, we shall be happy to recommend Commissaries. We agree with him in thinking there is no objection to Italian participation in this Commission.

(Sent also to Rome.)

No. 775.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879, 6 A.M.*

WITH reference to negotiations for loan, we have agreed to appoint Commissaries in case there is nothing seriously objectionable about scheme. I understand negotiations for loan are being carried on, and we will do what we can to help them.

Point out to Sultan that, in order to give these financial efforts a chance of success, it would be fatal to give impression of instability of Turkish Government, and that any change of Grand Vizier would put an end to the negotiations.

You should use similar argument to Grand Vizier as to the great importance of letting the public see that adequate precautions have been taken against disturbances in Eastern Roumelia.

No. 776.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879, 6·15 A.M.*

INFORM the Grand Vizier that we hear of his objections to mixed occupation with much regret. European Governor will not be able more than Turkish Governor to keep order without troops. Turkey in her present exhausted condition cannot furnish them in sufficient numbers to repress disorders which the sight of them will tend to exasperate. European troops will be able to maintain order for a year; and, by the end of that time, Turkey will have been able to recover.

What danger does Grand Vizier fear from mixed occupation?

No. 777.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, March 27, 1879.*

THE motion for going into Committee on the Government Bill for the statutory enrolment of the Berlin Treaty, was carried to-day in the Lower House of the Diet by 208 votes against 154: majority 54.

No. 778.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.*

COMMUNICATE to Count Schouvaloff as much of the following telegram as you think safe:—

[See Mr. Malet's telegram No. 250, Very Confidential, of March 25.]

It is evident, from what Musurus has said to me, and from this telegram, that they dread above all things the presence of an Austrian army on their soil.

Ascertain as confidentially as you can whether Count Schouvaloff thinks an European Governor would reconcile Roumelians to appearance of Turkish troops, and prevent uprising.

No. 779.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.*

GERMAN Ambassador informs me this morning that German Government see no reason for excluding Turkey from share in mixed occupation.

I concur with Count Schouvaloff in thinking it as well to keep them apart from the other Powers, and think that if they are placed at Bourgas and some other place on the northern or eastern frontier, it will be sufficient.

I have not yet got the consent of the Turks; but I feel no serious doubt of obtaining. I urged them again strongly last night. Wolff and Donoughmore have agreed to remain on Commission if it is prolonged.

No. 780.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.*

I HAVE been informed by the German Ambassador that his Government do not see any sufficient reason for excluding the Turkish forces from taking part in the proposed mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, however, inclined to agree with Count Schouvaloff in thinking that it would be desirable that they should be kept apart from those of other Powers. If they were stationed at Bourgas, and some other place on the northern or western frontier of the province, this would seem to be sufficient for all practical purposes.

The consent of the Porte has not yet been given, but I entertain no serious doubt of being able to obtain it, and have again strongly urges upon the Turkish Minister the expediency of agreeing to the proposal.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff and Lord Donoughmore have consented to remain on the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, in case of its being prolonged for another year, as proposed by the Russian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 781.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 408.)
Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE read with much interest the very able Report drawn up by Captain Stewart, of the 11th Hussars, of his journey between Samsoon and Diarbekir, which accompanied your despatch No. 196 of the 1st instant, and I request that you will convey to that officer my thanks for the same.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 782.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 410.)
Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE learned from your telegram No. 250, Very Confidential, of the 25th instant, the objections which have been offered by the Grand Vizier to the occupation of Eastern Roumelia by a mixed foreign contingent.

His Highness appears now disposed to consider that a European Governor of the province might be accepted by the Porte, but it is evident that without troops he will have no more power to maintain order than would a Turkish functionary.

In the present exhausted condition of its finances the Porte might find great difficulty in furnishing troops in sufficient numbers for the suppression of disorders which would only be aggravated by the appearance of an inadequate force.

The European contingent which it is proposed to send for the purpose would be able to maintain order, at any rate for the period of twelve months for which it is suggested the occupation shall last, which would allow to Turkey a sufficient time to recover herself.

I should be glad to hear from you what are the dangers which the Grand Vizier apprehends will result from a mixed occupation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 783.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.[*]

(No. 437.)
Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of the despatch which I have addressed to Major Clarke, who has been instructed to proceed to Constantinople in order to accompany the Commission which has been nominated by the Russian and Turkish Governments to mark out the new line of frontier between the Russian and Turkish territories in Asia, as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

Major Clarke has been selected as the British Commissioner for the tracing of the line of the Alashkerd Valley provided for in the Agreement which was signed by Count Schouvaloff and myself on the 12th July last. It has been settled that the operations of this Commission shall commence at Karaourgan. Major Clarke will also take part in the demarcation of the territory to be ceded by Turkey to Persia in the neighbourhood of Khotur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[*] A similar despatch was addressed to the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 784.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 13.)
Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.

Sir,

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner to take part in the settlement of the new line of frontier of the Turkish Empire in Asia, as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

The provisions of the Treaty relating to this subject will be found in Articles LVIII, LIX, and LX, and the discussions which took place in regard to them are recorded in Protocols 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 of the Congress. Copies of the Treaty and Protocols have already been communicated to you, together with other documents bearing upon the principal points involved.

You will find annexed to the Treaty an agreement signed by Count Schouvaloff and myself on the 12th July last, providing that the more detailed tracing of the line of the Alashkerd shall be carried out on the spot, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, by a Military Commission composed of a Russian officer, an Ottoman officer, and an English officer.

The terms employed in this agreement do not define with strict precision the point at which the proceedings of the Commission in question shall commence or terminate; but, as you are aware, it has been arranged between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia that its operations shall begin at Karaourgan and continue as far as the Persian frontier.

You are therefore instructed to proceed to Constantinople, where it is understood that the Russian and Turkish Commissioners are already assembled, and you will place yourself at once in communication with them, and make arrangements for assisting at the demarcation of the frontier in accordance with the above agreement.

In the discussions in which you will have to take part it will be your duty to bear in mind that the frontier to be settled is one which Great Britain has undertaken, under certain conditions, and in certain contingencies to assist in defending. Her Majesty's Government are not desirous on that account that the provisions of the Treaty should be in any way strained in favour of Turkey, but they are naturally interested in seeing that none of the advantages secured to the Sultan by the work of the Congress should be impaired or lost in the settlement of the details.

For the same reason it appears to Her Majesty's Government to be a matter of considerable importance that that portion of the frontier which lies between Karaourgan and the Black Sea should not be settled without your having the opportunity of offering your opinion to the Turkish Commissioners upon the questions which may arise in regard to it. The Turkish Government have equally expressed their anxiety that they may have the benefit of your advice. I leave it to you to ascertain on your arrival at Constantinople whether any arrangements can be made for this purpose without giving rise to objections and protests on the part of the Russian Commissioners, and I shall be glad to learn from you by telegraph what plan you are able to suggest, or whether it will be expedient that your action should be limited to preliminary advice.

It only remains for me to request that you will continue to observe the instructions conveyed to you in my despatch No. 1, marked Confidential, of the 12th December last, as to keeping this Department and Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople informed of your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 785.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 28.*)

(No. 43. Political.)
Scutari, March 9, 1879.

My Lord,

KIAMIL PASHA and his colleagues state that they have reason to believe that an assurance had been obtained by the Porte from Sir Henry Layard, as well as other Ambassadors, that the Prince of Montenegro would consent that Osman Bey should reside as Consul at Podgoritza; and they therefore now complain loudly of the false position in which they find themselves, and decline to communicate with Montenegro.

Should Sir Henry Layard have given the promise, as asserted, I could try, on my own motion, to bring about an understanding between the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments; but if his Excellency did not do so, it would be better for me not to act except at the request of the Turks. The interruption of relations ought not, however, to be prolonged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 786.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, March 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Erzeroum letters of the 6th instant convey to me the information that the Court of Appeal in that town, after having endeavoured for some time to revert, has at last confirmed, the sentence of the Court of First Instance, condemning to death seven Mussulmans as principals in the outrage at Hodoortchoor. The sentence was sent on the 6th instant to Constantinople for confirmation, but the opinion prevails at Erzeroum that unless a pressure is exercised on the Porte, the indispensable order for carrying out the sentence will never be issued.

Monsignor Melchisedeghian, Roman Catholic Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, who is here returning to his See, viâ Batoum, from Kars and Artwin, where he consecrated a church and a bishop, shares this opinion.

He bases it on the fact that two of the parties condemned to death, Hussein and Halil, sons of Sherif Agha, are brothers-in-law of a certain Maksood Effendi, a major of artillery at Erzeroum, whose influence delayed the confirmation of the sentence, and may prevent its execution.

Nifoglou Essad Effendi, Kaimakam of Ispir, is reproached by the Armenians not to have prevented the outrage at Hodoortchoor, who consider that the conduct which he followed in that circumstance should not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

It appears that the band of upwards of sixty Mussulmans who attacked Hodoortchoor had assembled the previous evening at Khomod, but the Kaimakam took no notice of the presence of so many armed men, who, being known bad characters, and having preferred threats against the Christians in that district, could have only come with bad intentions.

I inquired from the Archbishop whether he apprehended any danger for the Armenians at Hodoortchoor from the relatives of the parties condemned to death, should the sentence be executed, and whether he thought that the presence in that locality of a small body of Turkish troops would insure safety, without causing inconvenience in other respects.

Monsignor Melchisedeghian recommended, in answer, the adoption of a measure which, in his opinion and that of the Christian populations, is calculated not only to insure safety in this, but in all other circumstances, attacks from Kurds not excepted.

This measure consists in the Government publishing in all the districts of the Vilayet of Erzeroum, that when attacked, the Christians are authorized to make use of arms in self-defence, with which the Archbishop says they are well provided.

I replied that self-defence was a natural law admitted by the codes of all nations, the Turkish included, and that I could not see the advantage of publishing it afresh.

Monsignor Melchisedeghian pointed out that it would be, on the one hand, a salutary warning to the unruly portion of the Turkish population, and to the Kurds, who reckon now on the non-opposition of the Christians to commit their murderous attacks; and, on the other hand, an encouragement to the latter to depend upon themselves for their own protection.

The Christians in Armenia pretend that they do not dare now to defend themselves from fear of being sued for murder, and they cite in support of their assertion the example of some Armenians who killed near Terdjan, in self-defence, a Turk, and who are in prison at Erzeroum since six months, without foreseeing when they may be set at liberty.

As there may be some truth in the opinion of the Christians, and as they are, at all events, convinced that the measure which they suggest is sufficient to secure their future safety, there may perhaps be no objection to try the experiment of making

more publicly known the Articles of the Ottoman Code relating to the right of self-defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 787.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 16, 1879.*

THE sixty days alloted the first year for the sittings of the Cretan General Assembly having expired, the President, Photiades Pasha, closed the Chamber yesterday.

This last week has been occupied in drawing up a Communal Law of which the following are the chief provisions:—

The whole island will be divided into about fifty communes. The inhabitants of each commune will elect its own officers, who will consist of a Mayor, a Deputy Mayor, two Assistants (Adjoints), and a Council of eight. The presence in Crete of two hostile religious communities made itself felt, as usual, when it became necessary to apportion the power to be exercized by each in the local self-government. The Mussulmans claimed their right to equal representation, but the Christians contended that as the principle of representation according to numbers had been already conceded in the composition of the General Assembly, it was only logical to carry out the same principle in the matter under discussion. The Mussulmans not being disposed to yield the point, quitted the Chamber in body (three only siding with the Christians), and it required all the tact and persuasion of the President to induce them to resume their seats on the morrow, when the following scheme was proposed and carried by the Christian majority:—

In every commune the Mayor will belong to the religion of the majority of the inhabitants, and the Deputy Mayor to the minority, the two Assistants being, one a Christian and the other a Mussulman. In the Council of eight, if in a commune there be less than forty Mussulman or forty Christian families, that community will not be represented; if there be more than 150 families of each, the representation will be equal; while if the number of families vary between these figures, the members of the majority of the two elements will be twice as numerous as those of the minority. The Mayor will be the sole executive officer of each commune, who will be charged to carry out the decisions of the Communal Council after they have been approved by the local Administration in the person of the Kaimakam. The care of the communal roads (if such can be said to exist), the formation of primary schools, the supply of water, and other matters of a purely local interest will form the principal duties of the Communal Boards, which will provide the moderate funds necessary for carrying out their plans, each able-bodied man giving four days' labour in the year to keep the roads in repair. While by the proposed organization a preponderating influence will be exercised by the Christians in most of the country districts, the Mussulmans will be in the ascendant in the three towns of Crete, where the possession of power will be more highly prized.

For the support of the superior schools established in the towns, the Assembly voted a tax of 1 per cent. on the salaries of all employés, and a tax of 1½ per mille on all exports and imports. The legality of the latter impost is likely to be contested by foreign merchants, but the native merchants seem disposed to acquiesce in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 788.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 17, 1879.*

CONTRARY to the anticipations of many, the Cretan General Assembly has come to an end without any breach between the two religious parties composing it. This result is mainly due to the good sense and tact displayed by the President, Photiades

Pasha, and in no slight degree to the moderation of a few leading men on either side, who have not ceased to counsel a spirit of conciliation among the rest. The most important measures voted by the Assembly, already reported in previous despatches of mine, may be thus briefly recapitulated:—

The organization (on paper) of a force of 2,052 gendarmes, mostly natives of the island. The drawing up of a budget which presents an anticipated deficit in the financial year just opened, even with the addition of half the receipts of the customs dues (which the Porte has not definitively granted), and in spite of a sweeping reduction of salaries. The reorganization of the financial department, which, having been exclusively in the hands of Turkish officials who rendered the accounts in Turkish, will henceforth have a mixed administration, the accounts being published in both Greek and Turkish. The suppression of the salaries of the Cadis and of the Greek Archbishop, the abolition of the hereditary fiefs called Meekata'a, and the forfeiting of the revenues attached to certain mosques which are contributed out of tithes. The scheme by which the bulk of the revenue (that, viz., derived from the tithes on articles of export, such as olive oil, soap, valonia nuts, and locust beans) are henceforth to be collected at the custom-houses, the tithes on grain, &c., being farmed. Certain modifications introduced into the judicial system, such as the presence in the principal Courts of a Procureur and a Juge d'Instruction, and the reduction of the Judges chosen by the people from four to two in the twenty-three petty Courts. A diploma, or the passing of an examination before a local board of examiners, will henceforth be demanded of the Presidents of the Courts, as well as of the Procureurs and Juges d'Instruction. The endeavour to restore order in the accounts of the Agricultural Bank, established in Crete in 1868, the funds of which have been allowed to remain unproductive in the hands of the peasantry. The institution of offices of public notaries throughout the island, by means of which the transfer of real property and mortgages thereon will henceforth be effected, and all notarial acts performed. One of the last works of the Assembly was to draw up a scheme by which the mass of old debts contracted before the outbreak of the insurrection of 1866 is to be extinguished. As the members of the Assembly reflect the views of the debtors far more than those of the creditors, it is not surprising that the arrangement devised should have given dissatisfaction to the latter, to whom it is manifestly unfair, and already protests against its acceptance are being addressed to the Grand Vizier, who is not likely to sanction it in its entirety.

The last discussions of the Assembly were occupied in the framing of a Communal Law, the particulars of which were given in my last despatch.

One of the concessions made to the Cretans in the late negotiations with the Porte was the right to draw up a code of Civil and Criminal Procedure, the want of which has proved the source of frequent injustice. I questioned at the time the competence of the Assembly for a work of that magnitude, and experience has taught them that the legal knowledge at their disposal was not equal to the self-imposed task, which has been deferred till the next meeting of the Assembly, the Deputies intending in the interval to seek the advice of foreign jurists on the subject.

It is worthy of note that, in all the measures elaborated by the General Assembly for the administrative and judicial organization of the island, the initiative has been taken by the Christian element. Committees were appointed to draw up plans to be submitted for the discussion and approval of the rest, in which, it is true, the Mussulman element was represented, but for the most part all changes have been steadily opposed by the bulk of the Mussulmans, who are averse to the spirit of reform. They took a subordinate part in the discussions, the President frequently making himself their mouthpiece when he had reason to think that their interests were being sacrificed. They labour under the additional disadvantage of not being able easily to understand the language employed by the better educated Christian Deputies who speak the modern Greek of Athens, while the Mussulmans talk the Cretan idiom, and are not even taught to read and write their mother tongue, but only Turkish, which is not in common use. Their narrow and less practical education places them at a great disadvantage, which constantly made itself apparent when the two communities discussed questions affecting their common interests. Thanks to the good sense of a very few enlightened Mussulman Deputies who voted with the Christians when their proposals were reasonable, and especially to the tact and discretion of the President, who sought private interviews with either party to moderate the zeal of the one or to prepare the others for any innovations which might shock their prejudices, the two elements of which the Chamber was composed avoided the scandal of an open rupture, which at one time seemed imminent.

The Porte has not yet pronounced upon the several schemes submitted for its sanction by the Assembly, the members of which, scattered as they will now be among

their constituents, will be eager to learn how they are received. There seems no reason why it should not agree to most of the measures voted by the majority, but especially is it important that it should consent that half of the customs dues be devoted to the expenses of the local Administration. Photiades Pasha is fully aware that unless the Porte makes this sacrifice to the principle involved, in which it gave its solemn consent in Article 13 of the modifications imported into the Organic Law on the 14th October last, there is no hope of saving the island from lapsing into anarchy, both from the want of funds to pay the police, and from the discontent which such a breach of faith will everywhere create. To this latter subject I ventured to draw your Lordship's attention in my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 15th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 789.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 348.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 26, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, I have the honour to report that I stated verbally to M. Waddington this afternoon that Her Majesty's Government had received from Russia a proposal for an eventual mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, and had consented to it on the following conditions:—(1) that all the Signatory Powers, without exception, should consent to it; and (2) that all equally should have the option of taking part in it.

I told M. Waddington also that Russia had, moreover, proposed that the duration of the European Commission for Eastern Bulgaria should be prolonged, in order that it might instal the new Governor-General in his office, advise him during the first year, and dispose of the occupying forces. And I added that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to consent to this also, but on condition that the decisions of the Commission should be taken by the majority of votes.

M. Waddington said that he looked upon this last condition as very wise.

As regarded the mixed occupation, he repeated that France had no objection to it in principle, but that she would not herself take part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 790.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 350.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 27, 1879.

IN execution of the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram of to-day, I informed M. Waddington this afternoon that if a scheme for giving financial aid to the Porte were brought forward, Her Majesty's Government would be happy to appoint Commissioners.

I added that Her Majesty's Government concurred with him in the opinion that there would be no objection to the participation of Italy in the Commission.

M. Waddington said that he had told the Italian Ambassador that he was quite willing that there should be one Italian member of the Commission. He added that although it was proposed that France and England should designate two Commissioners each, he did not think that Italy ought to have more than one.

He added that he was not aware that any new scheme had yet been prepared, since the lapse of that of M. de Tocqueville.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 791.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord, *Little Heathville, Old Charlton, March 27, 1879.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in the telegram from Lord Tenterden, dated Foreign Office, 25th March, 4·10 P.M., I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have carried out those orders.

Captain Gill starts to-day to catch the Marseilles boat on Saturday. I have given him verbal instructions with regard to the trace of the frontier; also as to his duties on reaching Constantinople, and have addressed to him a letter, of which the inclosure is a copy.

I shall be glad to learn that your Lordship approves of my letter of instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 791.

Major Clarke to Captain Gill, R.E.

Sir, *War Office, March 26, 1879.*

IN accordance with instructions which I have received from Lord Salisbury, I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to proceed forthwith to Constantinople.

On arrival there you will place yourself in communication with Colonel Shehab Bey, the Ottoman Commissioner, and advise him with regard to the trace of the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia.

In this duty you will take as your guide the Treaty of Berlin (Article LVIII), following its provisions in the closest manner.

Two maps, showing the boundary as defined in that Treaty, are herewith inclosed for your guidance.

As explained to you in my verbal instructions, the Commission has, unless any recent change has taken place, been split up into two Sub-Commissions, of which one—the Batoum Commission—has to delimitate the frontier between the Black Sea and Mount Kessa Dagh, while the other—the Kars Sub-Commission—has to demarcate the boundary between Mount Kessa Dagh and the old Russian frontier.

Judging from the progress made by the Batoum Commission up to the suspension of its sittings in December last, it is exceedingly improbable that the deliberations of the Commission will reach, for some time to come, that part of Article LVIII—"jusqu'à un point à l'ouest près de Karougan"—when Her Majesty's Government have a voting voice in the proceedings.

Should they, however, by any chance, reach this point before my arrival, you will, in concert with the Turkish Commissioner, temporize, as no official deliberation with regard to the trace of the frontier from that point eastwards can take place without a reconstitution of the Commission and the presence of the British Commissioner.

In the same manner, and for the same reason, you can only take part in informal meeting of the Kars Sub-Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 792.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 27, 1879.*

GERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he instructed German Ambassador in London to tell your Lordship that German Government accept the Russian proposition in principle, but without participating in the mixed occupation. As regards the adoption of majority principle, German Government holds that it must obtain the unanimous consent of the Powers before they can admit it.

No. 794.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1879.*

PRINCE TZERETELEW telegraphs that Commission has come to an agreement on all the Articles, except three, regarding territorial property, to which Turks alone still object. M. de Giers much pleased at this news.

No. 795.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 258.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 27, 1879.*

THE Sultan sent for me to-day. His Majesty asked me the reasons of Her Majesty's Government for recommending mixed occupation. I gave them, and advocated them with such further arguments as occurred to me. His Majesty said he could not give me his opinion until he had consulted his Cabinet. He spoke upon the financial extremity of the country, and urged that, if England wished her well, she should extend a hand before the irretrievable ruin of the Empire, now imminent, was complete. I replied that Her Majesty's Government had shown their desire to assist by the manner in which they had entertained the Musurus scheme, and I proceeded to speak about impression that the position of the Grand Vizier was unstable, and said that Her Majesty's Government could only have confidence in the future if it felt sure that the Grand Vizier would not be displaced. On returning home I found your Lordship's telegram of this date on the subject, and, as His Majesty had already opened a correspondence with me, I have written the substance to him and dispatched it at once to the Palace. It may be extremely opportune, as there is a rumour that the Grand Vizier intends to-night to demand a change in the composition of his Cabinet.

No. 796.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 260.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 27, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Green:—

"Porte is anxious for friendly relations, and urges Montenegro to send a representative only temporarily which would immediately be responded to. It continues to hope that an unofficial agent may be allowed to reside at Podgoritza. The letter mentioned in your telegram of 19th would be very acceptable."

No. 797.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 261.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 27, 1879.*

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs as follows, dated this day:—

"A band of about 150 Greeks attacked on 25th instant village of Serdobively, in the district of Carditza, and carried off more than 1,200 sheep. Turkish troops pursued and drove them over the Greek frontier, killing three and wounding several, and also recovering most of the sheep. One Turk killed and two wounded. My private agent at Releitza confirms this, adding that Greek bands are daily coming over from Greece."

No. 799.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 262.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

I HAVE received a telegram from Sir H. Drummond Wolff saying that the Commission think of leaving for Constantinople on Sunday. The province will thus be abandoned to Russians and Bulgarians.

No. 800.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Green to-day :—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, pray urge Montenegro to accept the friendly overtures of the Porte. It is not reasonable to suppose that its resources do not admit its sending an Agent to Constantinople, at least, temporarily, and its representation by Russia is not consonant with its newly acquired independence."

No. 801.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 264.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

AN official notice appeared yesterday stating that the Sultan has given orders that the articles of gold and silver in the Imperial Palaces, with the exception of what is strictly required for the Imperial service, shall be sent to the mint to be converted into money to be devoted to the withdrawal of the paper currency.

No. 802.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 265.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, the Ottoman Bank has urged that articles of artistic workmanship should be sent to London and Paris for sale, as they would thus fetch more than if simply converted into coin.

No. 803.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

I HEAR that majority of Ministry are against the mixed occupation, probably in order to thwart Grand Vizier, who advocates it. Minister for Foreign Affairs will probably sacrifice his personal views and follow lead of Grand Vizier.

No. 804.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 27, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Malet's telegram No. 250, it strikes me that an European Governor alone would do very little good. His appointment would not satisfy Bulgarians unless Balkan garrisons were suspended, and in this case he would have no force to support him but the Bulgarian gendarmerie and police, who are not to be

depended upon. The Turks are, as usual, too late; and to my mind a mixed occupation is the only certain means of tranquillity.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 805.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 27, 1879.

TO-DAY we have adjourned our sitting till Saturday week at Constantinople. Lord Donoughmore and I will probably leave Sunday, and Mr. Cartwright a day or two later.

It was proposed by Prince Tzerotelew that the Commission should, at some future sitting, appoint a sub-Commission to consider best means of applying our Statute, and referred to proposal of the Conference of Constantinople that there should be a Commission of Control. He did not point out for the purpose any particular scheme. I recalled the statement made by me on the 26th December, adding that I was prepared to discuss any proposal in the sense of that declaration if the other Commissioners received instructions in the same sense.

Baron Ring addressed a question to the Ottoman Commissioners as to stipulations of Article XXIII. I said that I did not consider Commission had any initiative in this respect, but that it was desirable we should not when projects were to be presented. If your Lordship thinks it right, it might be as well to call attention of the Porte to this question.

Walpole returned yesterday from Macedonia. He describes the insurrection to consist of some 200 peasants, headed by an outlaw, who are merely brigands.

No. 806.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informed me yesterday that Germany had agreed to recommend to Russia to accept Austrian proposals for decision by majority in Boundary Commission.

No. 807.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

AT the request of Count Karolyi, I have written to St. Petersburgh substantially in the sense of the Austrian despatch on the question of deciding by majority in the Boundary Commission.

No. 809.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879, 5·0 P.M.

IT is inexpedient that Russians and Bulgarians should be left entirely to themselves at Philippopolis. I am sending out a Consul-General. Could Lord Donoughmore stay behind for a short time without inconvenience?

No. 810.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

I HAVE informed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that the question of mixed occupation was under consideration in Constantinople. In reply to a question put by him, I stated that we consented to the prolongation of the Commission for the purpose of supervising the introduction of the arrangements with Eastern Roumelia, and of disposing of the military force if a mixed occupation should take place. But I impressed upon him earnestly that our consent was dependent upon the condition that, in the exercise of any Executive power, the majority of the Commission should decide.

We also consented to mixed occupation, if it took place at all, lasting for one year.

No. 811.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 123.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

I HAVE informed your Excellency by telegraph this afternoon that the Austrian Ambassador, whom I saw yesterday, has told me that the German Government have consented to recommend that of Russia to accept the proposals of Austria that questions arising in the Boundary Commissions shall be decided by the votes of the majority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 812.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 129.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

I HAVE informed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that the question of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia was under the consideration of the Porte.

In reply to a question put by him I stated that Her Majesty's Government consented to the prolongation of the European Commission for the purpose of supervising the introduction of the new arrangements into the province, and of disposing of the military force if a mixed occupation should take place. But I impressed upon him earnestly that the consent of Her Majesty's Government was dependent upon the condition that in the exercise of any executive power the majority of the Commission should decide. They also assented, I said, that the mixed occupation, if it took place at all, should continue for twelve months.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 813.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 178.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

WITH reference to the proposed removal of the sitting of the European Commission to Constantinople, I have to state to you that I fear it would be highly inexpedient that events should be allowed to take their course at Philippopolis unwatched.

Mr. Mitchell will proceed there as Consul-General for Eastern Roumelia at once, but meanwhile I should be glad that Lord Donoughmore should remain on the spot if he can conveniently do so, at any rate for a short time, in order to report to you anything which may occur worthy of notice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 814.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 155.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a draft of a note from Count Andrassy to Baron Langenau,* which has been communicated to me by Count Karolyi, in which his Excellency, while expressing the readiness of the Austro-Hungarian Government to accept the suggestions of the Russian Government that the Commission charged with the delimitation of the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia should meet again without delay, insists that the Delimitation Commissions which have not yet completed the tasks entrusted to them under the Treaty of Berlin should be allowed by the Powers to decide by a majority of votes.

I inclose also copy of a telegram from Vienna which Count Karolyi has since communicated to me,† in which it is stated that, in deference to the reluctance of the German Government to advise the Russian Government to accept this principle, a passage has been added to the draft by which it is proposed that the Commissions should decide unanimously points upon which they may be agreed; that points of difference should be referred to the Cabinets, who should endeavour to agree in them; and that in case only of the failure of the Cabinets to solve them, they should be again submitted to the Commissions and decided by a majority of votes.

I inclose further copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Lord Dufferin containing the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian proposal, from which you will see that, in compliance with the request made by Count Karolyi on behalf of his Government, views have been expressed substantially the same as those given by Count Andrassy in the draft to Baron Langenau in its amended form.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 815.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 151.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

AT an interview which I have had with General Menebrea, I assured his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government considered Italian co-operation in the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia as of great importance, because it would be looked upon as a guarantee that no ulterior objects were in view. England and Italy were not suspected of any desire to acquire territory in European Turkey, and the presence of their troops in the mixed occupation would give a security which would not be inspired by the presence alone of the Powers adjacent to Turkey.

At this moment the consent of the Turkish Government to the joint occupation is being awaited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 816.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 165.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1879.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 22nd instant, and questioned me with respect to the proposed action of Her Majesty's Government on the question of Roumanian independence. His Excellency pointed out that the independence of Servia had been recognized on her passing a Bill for consulting the greater Skuptchina with respect to the modification of the Constitution, and he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government was prepared to take the same course when Roumania had fulfilled a similar condition.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government had been in communication with the German Government on the subject; that difficulty had been caused by the fact that the language of the Roumanian statesmen had been by no means so satisfactory as

* No. 359. † No. 721.

that of the Servian statesmen; and that the same confidence was not everywhere felt as to the sincerity of their desire to conform to the requisitions of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government, I went on to say, held themselves at liberty, if circumstances should seem to justify it, to recognize Roumania after the third reading of the Bill summoning the Constituent Assembly, but, at the same time, I did not conceal from his Excellency that the reticence observed by the Roumanian statesmen added considerably to the difficulties of Her Majesty's Government in this matter. If the Roumanian Government would give Her Majesty's Government a clear intimation of the nature and extent of the measure they proposed, Her Majesty's Government would be able to form a confident judgment as to its correspondence with the requirements of the Treaty; but their silence had created much doubt in respect to their intentions, and I could not, therefore, at present, say positively what the course of Her Majesty's Government would be after the third reading of the Bill which was now passing through the Roumanian Assembly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 817.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord,

Rome, March 23, 1879.

AFTER the receipt of your Lordship's telegram repeating that sent to the Earl of Dufferin on the 21st instant, relative to the communication to your Lordship by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires of a proposal of his Government as to a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, I thought it my duty to lose no time in calling upon M. Depretis, in order to ascertain if his Excellency had received a similar communication, and his views upon it.

M. Depretis received me yesterday morning, and, in reply to my inquiry, informed me that the Russian Ambassador had called upon him on Thursday, the 20th instant, and had communicated to him the proposal of his Government, intimating, at the same time, their desire to receive a speedy reply.

M. Depretis informed me that his reply to Baron Uxkull had been extremely reserved. He had told him, he said, that he must, of course, take time for reflection, and consult his colleagues before giving a formal answer; but that he would not conceal from him that he considered the Russian proposition as a very grave event; that he was entirely opposed to a foreign intervention in Turkey, or to any departure whatever from the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 818.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 114. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Rome, March 23, 1879.

AFTER acquainting me with what passed at his interview with the Russian Ambassador, as reported in my despatch No. 113 of this day's date, M. Depretis proceeded to speak to me of the very serious consequences which he apprehended should the proposal for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, which he characterized as the first step towards the tearing up ("la première déchirure") of the Treaty of Berlin, be accepted. His Excellency said he had long had serious misgivings as to the intentions of Russia in this respect; and, as he had told me on a previous occasion (see my despatch No. 98, Confidential, of the 18th instant), the impression made upon him by the recent Russian Circulars, and other proceedings of Russia, was that they were preparatory to some sinister design against the full execution of the Treaty.

The communication now made by the Russian Government, therefore, had not taken him by surprise; moreover, before its reaching him, he had received an intimation from Chevalier Nigra that something of the kind might be shortly expected.

His Excellency inquired whether I could inform him how the Russian communication had been received by Her Majesty's Government, upon which I read to him your Lordship's telegram to Lord Dufferin of the 21st instant.

M. Depretis observed that he did not believe that the Turks would ever assent to a mixed occupation—at least, he could only say that if he were a Turkish statesman, he never would do so; and he then proceeded to discuss which were the Powers, in the event of a mixed occupation receiving the sanction of Europe, which would be likely to take part in it, arriving at the conclusion that the only two Powers who would furnish troops would be Austria and Russia, and if, in addition to the military position already held by these two Powers in Turkey, they were to be placed as the sole occupants of Eastern Roumelia, M. Depretis said he could not but regard it as the commencement of the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. He could not, he continued, consider the reserves mentioned by your Lordship, that the proceedings must be looked upon as being in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and in no sense a modification of it, and that every right possessed under that Treaty by the Turks was to remain to them, as any guarantee for the future. For his own part, he would be inclined to rally to the Power who would insist the most strenuously upon the strict execution of the Treaty, and he believed England was that Power. If, however, England would take part in the occupation of Eastern Roumelia, he should then feel a less degree of anxiety, although still objecting to any departure from the Treaty.

I asked his Excellency, though I said I did so of course unofficially, whether, if the Italian Government were applied to to send a contingent, they would do so.

His Excellency replied that if such a proposal were made by Her Majesty's Government (Turkey assenting to the occupation, and her troops taking part in it), he would give the matter his most serious consideration; and that if a certain number of English troops were sent likewise, this would be an additional motive for the Italian Government to agree to the proposal, as he was most desirous of acting in perfect agreement with Her Majesty's Government.

In making this statement, however, his Excellency referred very pointedly to the financial position of this country, the strong feeling in the Chambers against increasing the expenses, and, on the part of the Government, against increasing the national burdens or deranging the present financial equilibrium. I therefore venture to suggest that if the co-operation of the Italian Government is desired, it would greatly facilitate matters if some assistance could be afforded in the way of transport or otherwise.

I have only to add that later in the day I met Count Tornielli, who, in reference to the question under consideration, made a statement as to the views of the Italian Government in nearly the following words:—

"If England refuses the Russian proposal, and insists upon a strict adherence to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, Italy will do so likewise; this is what she would prefer. If, on the contrary, Her Majesty's Government consent to a mixed occupation, the Italian Government will also agree, and in this case they desire to come to a formal understanding with Her Majesty's Government as to the means to be employed by both Governments for giving effect to their resolutions."

Count Tornielli added that instructions had been sent to Count Menabrea to state this clearly to your Lordship, and to endeavour to arrange an agreement between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 819.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Rome, March 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, 3 P.M., desiring me, with reference to my telegram No. 24 of the 22nd instant, to convey to the Italian Government the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for their offer to act with England in regard to the question of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia proposed by Russia, and to inform your Lordship that I called this morning upon M. Depretis and delivered the message in the terms of your Lordship's instructions.

Before doing so, however, I stated to his Excellency that, in order to ensure complete accuracy, and to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, I should wish to read to him the telegram (No. 23) which I had addressed to your Lordship after my interview with him on the 22nd instant, and also my telegram of the same day which I sent after my conversation with Count Tornielli. Having accordingly read these telegrams, M. Depretis confirmed their accuracy, and I then read to his Excellency your Lordship's telegram of yesterday above referred to.

(Confidential). M. Depretis then said that he should like to tell me confidentially what he proposed saying, if I agreed, to the Russian Ambassador, who was pressing him for an answer to his recent communication. It was to the following effect:—"The Italian Government still continue to regard the mixed occupation as a very serious measure, and they would be disposed to side ("se ralliera") with that Power which advocated a strict adherence to the Treaty of Berlin. Nevertheless, if all the other Powers, including Turkey, agree to the occupation, if Turkish troops were admitted to take part in it, and England also sent a contingent, the Italian Government will not oppose it, and would even consent to join in it."

I replied that I saw no objection to this answer.

M. Depretis, in the course of the subsequent conversation, having again referred to the financial question, I inquired, with a view to being able to supply information if required, in what manner the assistance might be given, supposing the idea of doing so should be entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

M. Depretis said, by furnishing transport for the troops, and by helping the Italian Government to raise a loan in England on easier terms than they could get it on their own account.

This, his Excellency said, was what had been done for Piedmont when she took part in the Crimean war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 820.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 120. Strictly Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 25, 1879.*

IN the course of my conversation with M. Depretis to-day, his Excellency spoke with much concern respecting the policy of France, which, he said, he had some difficulty in comprehending.

The alacrity with which that Government had accepted the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation, while declining to take part in it, appeared to him singular; and he regretted it, as it destroyed the unity of action between the Western Powers which it was so desirable should exist in regard to the affairs of the East. What sacrifice would it be to France, he inquired, to send a contingent of a few thousand men as a contribution towards this mixed occupation of Roumelia, if it were destined to take place?

Then, again, in regard to the Greco-Turkish question, he was, he said, literally beset ("obsédé") by the French Government to put pressure on Turkey.

The French Ambassador had, his Excellency said, again last night, at Her Majesty's Embassy, attacked him on this subject; but it was impossible for him, he continued, to urge the Turkish Government to make the cession required in Epirus. All M. Goubernati's Reports went to show that it might produce a rising in Albania. The Albanians were a numerous and warlike population, who were not to be despised; and the result of forcing the hands of the Porte might be to detach Albania from the Turkish Empire.

Reverting to the question of Roumelia, his Excellency observed upon the conduct of M. Fournier, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, and the French Delegates at Philippopolis, in agitating the question of a European Governor, although he did not know that their proceedings had the approval of their Government.

M. Fournier was well known for a restless, unquiet spirit, anxious always to play a part. Amongst other names, even that of M. Vernoni, his Excellency said, had been put forward as a future candidate for the Governorship. But the thing was perfectly absurd. Either there was a Treaty of Berlin, or there was not. If the Treaty was not to be observed, then the Powers had better meet together and devise

something else to replace it; but so long as it was in existence, it was impossible to tolerate these continued attempts at setting its provisions at nought, and they must be absolutely resisted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 821.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 25, 1879, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram dated 2·15 P.M. to-day, instructing me to assure the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in acceding as far as Her Majesty's Government have done to the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation, they believe they are in no degree departing from the Treaty of Berlin, and that they set a high value on the co-operation of Italy.

I lost no time in acquainting M. Depretis with the tenour of the above telegram in a confidential note which I addressed to his Excellency immediately after receiving it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 822.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 21, 1879.*

THE impression is gaining ground here that steps are being taken by certain agents of the late Cretan Committee in Athens to create fresh disturbances in Crete. Several Cretans, whom I have spoken to on the subject, seem to suspect that such a movement is on foot, but I have not been able to learn anything tangible about it. One of the revolutionary leaders in the district of Apokorona, who had returned to Athens after the insurrection, has just come back, ostensibly for the purpose of settling down in Crete, but his professions cannot be trusted. Photiades Pasha has been informed that he is enrolling volunteers for employment in Epirus and Thessaly, but my inquiries have failed to confirm this information, which, if true, cannot long remain a secret.

It is not likely that any new efforts at creating disturbances here will be successful to the extent of provoking another insurrection, but they would materially retard the settlement of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 823.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Mars, 1879.*

COMME il importe que la Commission de Délimitation des Frontières du Monténégro se réunisse le plus tôt possible, la Russie a proposé aux Puissances la date du 1er Avril comme date du rendez-vous, et celle du 15 du même mois comme date du commencement des travaux. Veuillez demander au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité si son Commissaire pourra se trouver sur les lieux à la date du 1er Avril, et aussi si l'on est convenu du lieu de réunion.

No. 824.

General Menabrea to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, 35, *Queen's Gate, S.W., Londres, le* 28 *Mars*, 1879.

PAR suite de négotiations avec le Gouvernement Roumain, la Russie a renoncé au passage de ses troupes à travers la Roumanie proprement dite, se réservant toutefois le passage de la Dobroudja. Mais en vue des précautions nécessaires pour la prévention de maladies contagieuses sur les bords du Danube, et conformément à une demande de la Commission Européenne du Danube, le Gouvernement Roumain désirerait exempter Sulina du passage des troupes Russes en proposant l'isolement de cette localité.

D'après les instructions que j'ai reçues du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, j'ai recours à l'obligeance accoutumée de votre Excellence pour la prier de vouloir bien me faire connaître l'avis du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine relativement à l'isolement de Sulina.

Suivant les dernières nouvelles reçues de Bukharest, le Gouvernement Italien a lieu de croire que la Russie n'a pas l'intention de soulever des difficultés à la proposition de la Commission Européenne du Danube.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MENABREA.

No. 825.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 24. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 28, 1879.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF is quite positive that European Governor-General would not reconcile Roumeliotes to entry of Turkish troops. This Government agrees to introduction of the word "près." Prince Gortchacow has admitted to me in conversation that the majority principle must prevail in the Commission when any question arises respecting movement of troops. Short conversation with Emperor to-day. He quite acquiesces in occupation of Bourgas by Turks. They do not at all like the notion of Turks occupying Ichtiman.

No. 827.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 29, 1879.

I UNDERSTAND your Lordship's telegram of the 27th to refer to Lord Dufferin's desire to know whether he can depend upon General Chanzy's supporting him with regard to Rustem Pasha and other arrangements.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs says French Government adheres firmly to Rustem Pasha for Governor of Eastern Roumelia, and that General Chanzy's instructions are to that effect.

I do not know whether I ought to acquaint French Minister for Foreign Affairs with contents of Lord Dufferin's telegrams Nos. 11, 15, and 17.

I have no copy of his despatch No. 31 of the 19th.

I might perhaps induce French Minister to send instructions to General Chanzy to support definite arrangements distinctly stated.

No. 828.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March* 28, 1879.

I LEARN that the Russians intend to begin evacuation on the 3rd May. Troops will not embark at Bourgas, but march through Bulgaria to Varna. Bulgaria will not be evacuated till the 3rd August, and it is said that Russian administration will be continued till that date. I think a large Russian force in Bulgaria will encourage discontent in Eastern Roumelia.

It is urgent that the Porte should name Governor, as our budget is only valid till the 3rd of May, when if the Russian Administration is not replaced the whole administrative machine will fall to pieces.

No. 829.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 29, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet:—

"Having, with reference to your telegrams of the 27th and yesterday, again urged strongly upon the Prince expediency of sending a representative to Constantinople, His Highness has promised to consider matter anew, and let me know his decision in a few days.

I presume His Highness wishes to consult with St. Petersburgh.

I return to-morrow to Scutari to endeavour to arrange some purely western matters between Montenegrin and Turkish authorities.

No. 830.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1879, 1·40 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 127 of the 27th instant, attention of Porte has quite recently been called to the necessity of acting on Article XXIII.

No. 831.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

GENERAL HAMLEY, British Commissioner for the Bulgarian frontier, left for Constantinople on Thursday last with Major Ardagh. The other officers of his staff leave next Thursday. Major Gordon, Commissioner for the Eastern Roumelian frontier, also started on Thursday. Major Clarke, British Commissioner for the Asiatic frontier, is detained by indisposition, but Captain Gill, of the Royal Engineers, appointed to assist him, has started with the other officers.

No. 832.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

I APPROVE telegram you have sent to Consul Green, as reported in your telegram No. 263 of yesterday.

No. 833.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1879, 5·10 P.M.

I HAVE received the following figures from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

[See Lord Dufferin's telegram No. 24 of 28th March].

Inform Captain Gill on his arrival, that Russian Government agree to introduction of word "près" in Article LVIII of Treaty Berlin.

No. 834.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 29, 1879, 4·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 23 of yesterday, I repeat figures asked for of telegram of previous day sent at 6 P.M.

"Ascertain as confidentially as you can whether Count Schouvaloff thinks an European Governor would reconcile Roumelians to appearance of Turkish troops and prevent uprising."

Porte seems to think that European Governor would satisfy Eastern Roumelians and obviate necessity in their eyes of excluding Turkish troops from interior of province. This was the question on which I thought Count Schouvaloff might be consulted.

I see that you have done so. You are right in thinking word should be Western, not Eastern.

No. 835.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 180.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 29, 1879.*

IN reply to the suggestion contained in your telegram No. 127 of the 27th instant, I have to state to you that instructions were recently given to Her Majesty's Representative at the Porte to urge it to take steps to carry into effect that portion of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin which makes it obligatory upon the Ottoman Government to elaborate, by means of Special Commissions, new schemes of organization for those portions of Turkey in Europe which have not been specially provided for by the Treaty of Berlin.

In reply to the representations made in this sense to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs by Mr. Malet early in the present month, he was informed that the Report of the Commission on the changes to be made in accordance with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin was at that time before the Council, but had not been examined.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 836.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 446.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 29, 1879.*

IN a telegram which I addressed to you to-day, I informed you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having instructed Mr. Kirby Green, by telegraph, to urge Prince Nicholas to accept the friendly overtures of the Porte, and to send a Montenegrin Representative to Constantinople, as reported in your telegram No. 263 of yesterday's date.

I am, &c,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 837.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 196.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 29, 1879.*

COUNT KAROLYI read to me to-day a despatch which he had received from Count Andrassy upon the subject of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, in which

it was stated that the Austro-Hungarian Government had expressed at St. Petersburgh a very decided opinion that Turkey should be at liberty to participate in a mixed occupation.

Count Karolyi further said that the refusal of the German Government to join in the occupation was not definitive, and that he was inclined to think that they might be induced to send a contingent if the command of the occupying force was to be offered to Germany.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 838.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 29, 1879.*

THE extreme financial distress of the Porte is due to the bulk of the revenue having been collected in paper currency, which has become nearly valueless, so that even although they pay no interest on the debt there is at present nothing to pay the current expenses with. Hints have been made to Colonel Biddulph with regard to purchase of sovereignty of Cyprus. If the annual payment could be capitalized and the sovereignty purchased for 1,000,000*l.* sterling, it would be an excellent thing for the island, and 1,000,000*l.* to the Turks at the present moment would be invaluable.

No. 839.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 29, 1879.*

THIS is believed to be the repetition of a telegram sent by Mr. Henderson (Aleppo) to Mr. Malet:—

The Porte has ordered Omer Pasha to send back old Kaïmakam to Zeitoun and place a battalion of soldiers at his disposal. I have persuaded Omer Pasha to refuse to send back old Kaïmakam, and to send in his place [? Husni) Effendi, a person in whom I have confidence. Should Porte disapprove I shall let you know by telegraph. Some disturbances caused by Circassians have taken place at Marash, and American mission [? missionary] has left. Omer Pasha assumed government yesterday, and immediately sent severe orders to military commanders to punish [? robbers] and maintain public tranquillity with troops if necessary.

No. 840.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 281 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 29, 1879.*

THE Council has not yet come to a decision regarding mixed occupation, but the majority seems to be [groups wrong] in favour of accepting. Will an official proposal be made to the Porte on the subject by Russia? The last three days have been spent in agitation regarding Imperial Firman to the Patriarch of the Catholic Armenians. It was granted, and then withdrawn by the Sultan, on which it was alleged that the Grand Vizier would resign. It appears, however, that his Highness did not make a Cabinet question of it, and the Council is again discussing it to-day.

No. 841.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, March 29, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE is entirely at your Lordship's disposal. Mr. Walpole remains with him. The Turkish, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners and Prince Tzeretelew left this morning, and I shall start on Monday.

Mr. Calvert is very anxious about his future.

No. 842.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 422.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 30, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 61 of the 29th instant, in which you expressed your doubts as to whether you should acquaint the French Minister for Foreign Affairs with the contents of Lord Dufferin's telegrams Nos. 11, 15, and 17, I have to state to your Lordship that I hardly think it would be safe to communicate these telegrams to M. Waddington until Her Majesty's Government learns what course General Chanzy, the lately appointed French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, is likely to pursue. If his Excellency takes a similar line to that adopted by M. Fournier, there would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be an obvious objection to the suggested communications.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 843.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of the Memorandum respecting the joint occupation which was left in my hands yesterday by Count Schouvaloff, and the substance of which I forwarded to your Lordship by telegraph early this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 843.

Memorandum by Count Schouvaloff respecting Joint Occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

LES deux réserves du Marquis de Salisbury feront avorter le projet de "joint occupation," et exposeront la paix Européenne à de grands dangers.

Il sera facile au Marquis de s'informer. Il apprendra que dans l'état de désorganisation actuelle de la Roumélie, et avec l'excitation des esprits, l'uniforme Turc ne pourrait encore y apparaître sans amener des collisions. Il semble que la présence des contingents Européens suffisent pour rassurer le Sultan sur l'avenir de ses droits de possession de la Roumélie.

Je préfère proposer à l'Empereur, pour le cas où Lord Salisbury obtiendrait la coöpération soit de l'Italie, soit de la France, de laisser en Roumélie les contingents Anglais, Autrichiens, et Français ou Italiens, et de retirer le nôtre au nord de la ligne des Balkans; afin de prévenir l'incursion de bandes révolutionnaires de Bulgarie, les Turcs pourraient surveiller dans le même but la fraction méridionale sans entrer cependant dans l'intérieur de la Roumélie.

Si, pour obtenir le consentement de la Porte, Lord Salisbury préférerait appeler les contingents des escortes, nous ne nous y opposons pas.

Lords Beaconsfield et Salisbury me témoignent de la confiance, qu'ils me donnent

donc "crédit," quand j'affirme que la présence de contingents Européens sans les Turcs est le seul moyen de maintenir l'ordre et de sauver le Traité de Berlin.

No. 844.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 26, 1879.*

PRINCE GORTCHACOW has informed me of the formal proposition emanating from this Government for a mixed occupation, which will be communicated to your Lordship by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London.

Circumstances here render it important that advantage should be taken of the materials now in our hands for arriving at a final understanding with the Russian Government upon the subject of Eastern Roumelia.

As it is pretty certain that neither Prince Gortchacow, nor indeed M. de Giers, regard with any great favour Count Schouvaloff's idea of a mixed occupation, it is to be feared that, if we let slip the present opportunity, influences inimical to his Excellency will eventually prevail, and the suggested arrangement fall to the ground.

I do not think there can be any doubt as to Count Schouvaloff's sincere desire to promote peace; and probably he is the only man of all those now in the counsels of the Emperor who clearly understands the serious consequences which will ensue were His Majesty, on the strength of the pretexts so constantly harped upon, to countermand the evacuation of his troops at the appointed date.

Others, however, may not be sorry to take advantage of any modifications of the scheme upon which we may insist to prolong the discussion until the crisis is upon us. They will then appeal to the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation as a proof of the genuine desire of this Government to insure the tranquillity of the province and the execution of the Treaty, and repudiate all responsibility for any sinister consequences which may attend the introduction of the new régime.

This is already the language which is being held by most of the officials here.

The chief cause of the objection of Prince Gortchacow and of M. de Giers to a mixed occupation arises from the fear lest it should turn to the advantage of Austria. On this account it is most desirable that some other Power, either Italy or France, should send a contingent. If none but Austrian and English troops took part in the occupation it would become invested with a hostile appearance, which would be very distasteful to the Russian people.

Should Her Majesty's Government be disposed to regard the proposal of the Russian Government with favour, it might be well to found its reply upon Prince Gortchacow's Memorandum inclosed in my despatch No. 31 of the 19th instant.

I make this suggestion as much with the view of deferring to his Highness' susceptibilities as for any other reason.

It is to be presumed that there would be no difficulty in accepting Prince Gortchacow's first suggestion, namely, that the English and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople should be respectively informed that Her Majesty's Government, on the one hand, would be prepared to bring the utmost moral pressure to bear upon the Porte, to induce it to respect the liberties and privileges about to be granted to the East Roumelian people under their new Constitution; while the Emperor of Russia, on the other, has engaged himself, in an equally explicit manner, not only not to protect nor countenance any resistance to the exercise by the Governor-General of East Roumelia of his legitimate authority, but to use every exertion in his power to induce its inhabitants to conform peaceably to the new order of things.

Prince Gortchacow's second proposition, namely, that it should be incumbent upon the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to refer to the Cabinets of the European Powers before making use of his troops to quell an insurrection, is both impracticable and in contradiction to the Berlin Treaty.

Perhaps a counter-proposal might be substituted, to the effect that the East Roumelian Commission should remain for some time longer at Philippopolis, for the purpose of assisting the Governor-General in carrying into operation the administrative institution it has framed.

In 1859-60 a similar Commission sat at Beirût with great advantage. Its President was Fuad Pasha, the Governor-General of the province. It exercised no executive functions, but as a consultative body it had considerable weight with the Representative

of the Porte, and its presence gave a sense of security to the populations in whose interest it had been originally constituted.

It might be a question whether, in the event of the troops forming the foreign contingent being required to act against any disaffected mobs, it might not be desirable to require the previous assent of the majority of the Commission.

I asked Count Schouvaloff, in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, whether his Government would have any objection to the majority principle being admitted under such circumstances.

His Excellency replied in the most positive terms that he would guarantee its assent.

With regard to Prince Gortchacow's third suggestion for a "mixed occupation," it merely anticipates the more formal proposition subsequently communicated to your Lordship.

Count Schouvaloff had learnt from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London that, while reserving the question for the Cabinet, your Lordship had informed him that in any event it would be necessary to obtain the assent of the Porte to the scheme, as well as that the Turkish troops should take part in the proposed occupation. These reserves seemed to fill Count Schouvaloff with alarm, and he earnestly entreated me to represent to your Lordship how calculated they were to cause a miscarriage of the negotiation. I need not repeat his arguments, as I have already had the honour of transmitting them *verbatim* in my telegram No. 15 of the 23rd instant. If, however, the Porte is ready, as appears to be the case, temporarily to forego the occupation of the Balkans, an arrangement might be arrived at which, without conceding anything in principle, might practically coincide with his Excellency's suggestion that, if the Porte should consent to keep its troops for the present outside of the province, the Russians, as a corresponding concession, will undertake to withdraw their contingent from Eastern Roumelia.

In the state of perturbation which seems to pervade the province, it is probably true that the approach of Turkish bayonets might produce a panic fraught with disastrous consequences; whereas, if the authority of the new Governor-General is established under the reassuring auspices of an European international force; if the liberal institutions granted to the province are set successfully in motion, and if time is given for the organization of the local police and militia under conditions favourable to the supremacy of the provincial Executive, an order of things may supervene which will enable the Balkan garrisons to be marched hereafter to their destination without inconvenience, while the distance which by that time will have been placed between the retiring armies of the Czar and those whom their closer vicinity might have encouraged to revolt, will be calculated still further to insure tranquillity.

Should it, however, be thought undesirable to exclude Turkey from all participation in the suggested occupation, the location of a small Turkish garrison in a Roumelian seaport, with some corresponding arrangement in regard to the Russian contingent, might perhaps prove an acceptable compromise. In any event I am strongly of opinion that, should Her Majesty's Government determine to acquiesce in the proposal for a mixed occupation, the settlement of all the arrangements connected with it should be prosecuted with the utmost energy and vigour, in order that the negotiations in regard to the whole scheme may be absolutely concluded before Count Schouvaloff returns to London and the Emperor leaves for Livadia, otherwise there is great danger lest the credit for good intentions they will consider themselves to have gained by this recent proposal should tempt the authorities here to dally with the situation, I will not say in the hopes of provoking a catastrophe, because I do not think that is their desire, but in order to try fortune to the utmost, in the expectation of events working in the direction of their policy and wishes, *i.e.*, in a manner antagonistic to the settlement provided for East Roumelia under the Berlin Treaty.

The foregoing observation, however, does not imply that I have at all changed my original opinion that the Emperor and his advisers are really anxious to retire the Russian army from the Balkan Peninsula if they can do so under conditions exempt from humiliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 845.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Schouvaloff called upon me to-day, and I was very much struck by his harassed appearance. He entreated me to urge upon your Lordship the desirability of modifying your two reserves as noted in your telegram of the 21st March, and enlarged with great earnestness on the necessity of preventing the Turkish troops from sharing in the proposed mixed occupation. He said that everything—peace itself—depended on your decision.

He then spoke in terms of very great annoyance of the difficulties and opposition he was encountering here in his endeavours to arrive at a reasonable settlement, and he candidly admitted that our present anxieties in reference to Eastern Roumelia were in a great measure to be attributed to the unwise action of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff and the Russian agents in that part of the world.

I have no doubt that Count Schouvaloff has very powerful enemies here, who would be glad to see his policy miscarry, in the hope that such a result would entail upon him the loss of the Emperor's favour and confidence.

It would be in our interest and in the interest of peace to strengthen Count Schouvaloff's hands as much as we can, and to enable him to satisfy the Emperor that his counsels have been favourable not only to the tranquillity of Europe, but to the best and highest interests of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 846.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 24, 1879.

YESTERDAY M. de Giers was good enough, at my request, to call upon me at the Embassy.

I was anxious to see him in order to ascertain how far he shared Prince Gortchacow's dislike to Count Schouvaloff's suggestion for a mixed occupation, and whether his Excellency's further proposal for the exclusion both of the Russian and the Turkish contingents from a share in that occupation was approved by the Chancellor and his subordinates.

As, however, more than one person has recently alluded to the impossibility of the Emperor's armies retiring should fresh disturbances occur in the beginning of May in East Roumelia, I thought it well to begin my conversation with M. de Giers in the following manner:—

Referring to the Russian proposal for a joint occupation, I said that it appeared to me we had now arrived at a very critical juncture, and that it was incumbent upon us all to spare no effort to conciliate our differences and arrive at an amicable conclusion, that an essential preliminary was thoroughly to apprehend what would be the alternative should we fail in doing so. There was no doubt that one of the chief causes of the Crimean war was the misapprehension on the part of the Emperor Nicholas of the real intentions of the English people, and I trusted such a mistake would never be again repeated, and that it would be only to deceive himself if he imagined that such an infringement, as I had heard recently talked of, of the Berlin Treaty would be regarded with indifference either by Her Majesty's Government or her subjects.

If, I said, the Emperor countermanded the exit of his troops from the Balkans, no matter on what pretext, there would be sure to follow a corresponding movement on the part of the British fleet, not only in the Mediterranean but elsewhere, and that, such movements once begun, there was no knowing where they would stop. Of course, he would understand I was not instructed to refer to these contingencies by your Lordship, but that such were my private opinions.

I took care to say all this in the most friendly and conciliatory manner, and I am satisfied I conveyed the impression I desired without producing the slightest irritation or offence. By using similar language in other quarters I have taken care this Government

should labour under no misapprehension as to the responsibilities they will incur should the present negotiations miscarry through any impracticability on their part.

I then reverted to the question of a mixed occupation and Count Schouvaloff's suggestion that both Turkey and Russia should abstain from taking part in it, and I asked him if these proposals now had his cordial support. He replied that he formerly had been averse to the idea of a mixed occupation, and that even now he thought that the continued presence of the European Commission in Philippopolis was the more important guarantee of the two; but that a decision having been taken upon the matter by the Imperial Council, he had conformed to the opinion of his colleagues.

With Count Schouvaloff's further suggestion for the exclusion of both the Russian and Turkish contingents he expressed considerable disatisfaction, observing that the upshot of the arrangement would be to expel Russia from the province for whose benefit she had expended so much blood and treasure, whilst Austria was left in possession.

Moreover, he added, the Turkish Government would still retain its right to garrison the Balkans.

I observed, and I have taken care on all occasions to insist very strongly in this sense, that under no circumstances would Her Majesty's Government advise the Porte to modify the rights assured to them by the Treaty of Berlin in this latter respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 847.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 27, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's telegram to Sir H. Drummond Wolff respecting the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who told me that instructions had already been sent to the German Ambassador in London to inform your Lordship that the German Government had accepted the Russian proposal in principle, but declined to take part in the proposed mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

Regarding the principle of "taking decision by majority," his Excellency said that it could only be applied in virtue of the unanimous consent of all the Powers, and the German Government would, therefore, withhold their assent until all the other Powers were agreed to adopt it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 848.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March 31.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{8}{21}$ Mars, 1879.*

VOUS n'ignorez pas que ce n'est que le $\frac{13}{25}$ Décembre dernier que le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à Athènes communiqua au Gouvernement Royal la nomination de son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, de Vahan Effendi, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Ministère de la Justice; et Abbedin Bey, Commissaire Impérial à la Bourse, en qualité de Délégués, afin de procéder, de concert avec les Délégués de Grèce, à la rectification des frontières, en exécution du Protocole XIII, confirmé par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ Juillet, le Gouvernement Royal avait proposé à la Sublime Porte la nomination de Commissaires, par une communication, qu'il avait simultanément adressée au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie et à la Légation Ottomane à Athènes.

Mais plus de cinq mois s'écoulèrent sans qu'il fut procédé à leur nomination. La Sublime Porte évitait d'abord de répondre à la note précitée de M. Coumoundouros. Ensuite elle mit en avant qu'elle attendait la réponse des Grandes Puissances au mémoire de Safvet Pacha, et finalement elle n'accéda à notre demande, que, lorsque le Gouvernement Royal se vit obligé de prier les Grandes Puissances d'exercer auprès de la Porte le droit de médiation, conformément à l'Article XXIV

du Traité de Berlin. Les représentations nécessaires furent alors adressées à la Porte par les Grandes Puissances, mais je crois inutile de vous entretenir de nouveau des circonstances se rapportant à cette démarche, attendu que ma Circulaire du $\frac{20 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$, en contient un récit détaillé.

Par conséquent, je vais exposer tout ce qui est arrivé depuis la nomination des Commissaires, car, indépendamment des cinq mois qui se sont écoulés entre la remise de la note précitée et la nomination des Commissaires, de nouvelles lenteurs et des difficultés sans nombre ont signalé la marche de cette affaire.

Dans la note que le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie nous adressa pour nous notifier la nomination des Commissaires, dont nous venons de parler, il était dit que Moukhtar Pacha avait été chargé d'indiquer la localité qui lui semblerait la plus convenable pour la réunion de la Commission.

Bien qu'il eût été plus régulier que le lieu de réunion des Commissaires fut déterminé, d'un commun accord par les deux Gouvernements, nous n'avons cru devoir élever aucune objection à ce sujet.

Nous avions trop à cœur de voir la question marcher promptement vers sa solution pour fournir au Gouvernement Ottoman, par une discussion d'une importance secondaire, des prétextes à de nouvelles lenteurs.

Ainsi, le Gouvernement du Roi procéda-t-il sans retard à la nomination de MM. Ch. Soutzo, Général de Brigade; G. Zinopulo, Secrétaire-Général du Ministère de l'Intérieur; et P. Colocotroni, Major d'Artillerie, en qualité de Commissaires; et porta-t-il cette nomination à la connaissance de la Légation Ottomane à Athènes par une note datée du $\frac{1}{13}$ Décembre, 1878, dans laquelle il exprimait en même temps l'espoir que Moukhtar Pacha ne tarderait pas à désigner une localité réunissant toutes les conditions désirables pour l'accomplissement de la mission confiée aux Commissaires des deux Etats.

Malheureusement, grâce aux lenteurs apportées par la Porte, nos Commissaires ne purent quitter Athènes qu'après vingt-quatre jours, à savoir, le $\frac{8}{20}$ Janvier, et la première séance de la Commission put à peine avoir lieu après cinquante jours, à savoir, le $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ dernier.

Mais ce retard a été mis à profit par un des Commissaires Ottomans, Abbedin-Bey qui convoqua à Prevesa des Albanais de différents points de l'Epire, et s'occupa à leur faire signer des pétitions contre l'annexion de leur patrie à la Grèce.

Pour justifier toutes ces lenteurs on a commencé par nous désigner un village imaginaire, appelé Koukout, comme lieu de la réunion de la Commission. Un intervalle de dix-huit jours s'écoule jusqu'à ce que les éclaircissements demandés à la Porte puissent nous parvenir, et il en résulte que le village de Koukout n'était autre que le village d'Anino, petit hameau situé sur la ligne frontière et dépourvu de toute habitation, excepté deux casernes en ruines.

Néanmoins le Gouvernement Royal, sans s'arrêter à ces considérations, fit partir immédiatement ses Commissaires. Et, en effet, MM. Soutzo, Zinopulo, et Colocotroni quittaient, dans la nuit du 8 au 9 Janvier le port du Pirée à bord de la frégate cuirassée "La Reine Olga," accompagnée du yacht Royal "Amphitrite," se dirigeant vers le Golfe Ambracique.

On ne pouvait, certes, prévoir qu'après tous ces retards le départ de nos Commissaires serait considéré comme trop précipité par le Gouvernement Ottoman; et, cependant, deux jours après leur départ, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie déclarait, par écrit à M. Coundouriotis, en même temps que le Chargé d'Affaires de la Porte à Athènes me faisait une communication analogue, que le Gouvernement Ottoman tenait à se dégager de toute responsabilité pour les retards que les Commissaires Hellènes auraient à subir à Anino, vu que Moukhtar Pacha n'avait pas fixé encore le jour de la réunion, et n'était pas non plus muni par son Gouvernement des pièces et documents nécessaires concernant sa mission. Je crois inutile de vous rappeler combien cette communication, ainsi que les difficultés injustifiables exposées à l'entrée de "l'Amphitrite" dans le Golfe d'Arta, ont dû influencer l'itinéraire de la Commission Hellénique.

Par mes précédentes dépêches vous connaissez, Monsieur, tous les incidents qui ont signalé l'arrivée de nos Commissaires à Vonitza, et qui constituent une véritable Odyssée, leur entrevue avec Djevad Bey, Aide-de-camp de Moukhtar Pacha, la désignation de Comboti, et puis de Preveza, comme lieu de réunion, et l'absence prolongée des Secrétaires de Moukhtar Pacha. Sans approfondir le but de ce système de temporisation, je me borne à constater qu'il a eu pour résultat de retarder l'ouverture des séances et de mettre à de cruelles épreuves la patience de nos Délégués.

Enfin, la première séance de la Commission s'effectua le $\frac{7 \text{ Janvier}}{6 \text{ Février}}$ de l'année courante.

Au début de cette séance les Commissaires du Gouvernement Royal donnèrent lecture du Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin et de l'Article XXIV du Traité, et prièrent leurs collègues Ottomans de s'expliquer sur les points de démarcation qui, dans l'opinion de la Sublime Porte, répondraient aux indications du dit Protocole.

Les Délégués Ottomans répondirent que le Protocole, ne contenant ni une obligation pour la Turquie, ni un engagement envers la Grèce, et n'exprimant qu'un désir des Puissances signataires du Traité concernant le maximum des concessions qui pourraient être faites à la Grèce, le Gouvernement du Sultan, pénétré des inconvénients qui résulteraient d'un morcellement de l'Albanie, ne peut s'empêcher de considérer les limites indiquées dans le Protocole comme inadmissibles.

Les Commissaires Ottomans finirent par déclarer qu'il serait de toute nécessité pour le Gouvernement Hellénique de ne pas insister sur l'adoption de la ligne de démarcation indiquée dans le Protocole 13, et d'en proposer une autre plus propre à servir de base à une entente entre la Grèce et la Porte.

Les Délégués du Gouvernement Royal ayant répliqué qu'ils se trouvaient dans l'impossibilité de se départir de la ligne indiquée dans le Protocole 13, et que c'était à leurs collègues Ottomans d'en proposer une autre plus conforme à leurs idées, les Commissaires Ottomans mirent en avant la question des garanties que le Gouvernement Hellénique entendrait offrir aux propriétaires Ottomans qui quitteraient le territoire annexé à la Grèce. La réponse de nos Commissaires à cette proposition fut que la discussion n'en était pas de leur compétence et que, d'ailleurs, la législation Grecque entoure de garanties plus que suffisantes les propriétés de tous les citoyens du Royaume.

Dans la deuxième séance, qui eut lieu le $\frac{23 \text{ Janvier}}{10 \text{ Février}}$ les Délégués du Gouvernement Royal revenant sur la question des garantis à accorder aux propriétaires Ottomans qui voudraient s'expatrier, déclarèrent que la législation du Royaume est assez libérale pour sauvegarder les droits des habitants tant personnels que réels. Toutefois, si, après que la ligne des frontières aurait été décidée, il fallait, pour l'exécution convenable de la rectification, prendre les mesures législatives tendant à compléter ou modifier les dispositions des lois en vigueur, les deux Gouvernements pourraient s'entendre par la voie diplomatique pour en saisir le pouvoir Législatif.

Les Délégués Hellènes ajoutèrent qu'ils faisaient cette déclaration incidemment et en dehors de leur compétence, et persistèrent dans l'adoption de la ligne de démarcation indiquée dans le Protocole 13. Mais comme les Délégués Ottomans réitérèrent leur déclaration, qu'ils considéraient cette ligne comme inadmissible, les Délégués Hellènes firent observer que les négociations ne pourraient pas aboutir à une entente tant que les Commissaires Ottomans ne seront pas revenus sur leurs déclarations primitives pour se placer à un point de vue plus conforme aux résolutions du Congrès.

Dans la troisième séance, qui eut lieu le $\frac{30 \text{ Janvier}}{17 \text{ Février}}$ les Commissaires Ottomans firent remarquer que la divergence qui existe entre les Délégués des deux Gouvernements provient principalement de ce que la Turquie considère le réglement de la question de la rectification des frontières comme une preuve de déférence envers l'Europe, tandis que la Grèce voudrait donner au vœu exprimé par les Puissances la force d'une décision. Les Commissaires Ottomans concluaient en priant leurs collègues Hellènes de leur prêter leurs concours pour faire disparaître cette divergence d'opinions.

Les Commissaires Hellènes se sont réservés de répondre dans la séance prochaine. Cette séance ayant eu lieu le $\frac{1}{13}$ Février les Commissaires Hellènes y donnèrent lecture d'une déclaration, par laquelle ils faisaient savoir à leurs collègues Ottomans que, comme il n'est point de leur compétence d'entrer dans une discussion sur l'interprétation des Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin, interprétation qui, d'ailleurs, appartient aux Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin, ils ne pouvaient déférer au désir exprimé par les Commissaires Ottomans, et qu'ils devaient se renfermer dans les limites de leur mandat, qui consiste à poursuivre l'exécution des décisions Européennes.

Par conséquent, ils prièrent leurs collègues Ottomans de leur faire savoir de quelle manière ils entendaient exécuter ces décisions.

Les Commissaires Ottomans demandèrent, à leur tour, à leurs collègues Hellènes, s'ils entendaient s'en tenir à la ligne de rectification proposée par le

Congrès et s'ils se refuseraient à entrer dans des pourparlers pour la fixation d'une autre ligne qu'ils auraient à leur proposer.

Les Commissaires Hellènes ayant répondu qu'ils considéraient la ligne fixée par le Protocole comme la seule base de négociations possibles, les Commissaires Ottomans firent observer que, du moment où le principe de la rectification est admis par les deux Gouvernements, et que la divergence de vues porte sur la ligne indiquée par le Protocole, ils se réservent de demander de nouvelles instructions à leur Gouvernement.

Par le court historique des travaux des quatre premières séances de la Commission, vous voyez, Monsieur, que les Délégués de la Porte ont tâché plusieurs fois d'amener la discussion sur des objets parfaitement étrangers à leur compétence. Ce n'est que lorsque la persistance de nos Délégués à ne pas entrer dans de pareilles discussions, les a forcés d'aborder le principal objet de leur mission, qu'ils ont dû mettre en avant la nécessité de nouvelles instructions, et amener l'interruption des travaux de la Commission.

Il est réellement surprenant qu'ils aient eu besoin de nouvelles instructions sur la question même de la rectification qui constituait l'objet principal de leur mission, tandis qu'il était naturel qu'ils fussent munis des instructions nécessaires avant leur départ de Constantinople.

Pour en venir aux nouvelles instructions demandées par les Commissaires Ottomans, vous savez qu'il a fallu trente-sept jours pour qu'une décision fût prise à cet égard par la Sublime Porte, et que pendant ce long intervalle nos Commissaires furent obligés de rester et attendre à Preveza. Le Gouvernement Royal entretenait toujours l'espoir que la Porte se déciderait à entrer franchement dans la voie qui lui était tracée par le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Mais cet espoir fut complétement déçu, ainsi que vous le verrez par la suite de cet exposé.

La cinquième et dernière séance de la Commission eut enfin lieu le $\frac{7}{19}$ courant.

Dans cette séance les Commissaires Ottomans se sont décidés à proposer la nouvelle ligne-frontière des deux Etats. Ils n'ont pas manqué d'exposer les raisons qui ont obligé le Gouvernement Ottoman de restreindre la rectification des frontières, en la bornant à la ligne qu'ils ont proposée. Les raisons qu'ils ont mises en avant portaient sur l'effervescence régnant en Albanie, sur la nécessité d'assurer à la partie de la Thessalie qui resterait à la Turquie un débouché vers la mer, et sur les intérêts stratégiques de l'Europe. Mais les arguments mêmes qu'ils ont invoqué à l'appui de leur proposition tendent plutôt à prouver qu'ils n'étaient nullement convaincus de pouvoir satisfaire par-là au but que le Congrès de Berlin se proposait lorsque ses membres signaient le 13e Protocol, et la Traité qui l'a sanctionné.

En effet, les Commissaires Ottomans ont déclaré que la nouvelle ligne frontière devait partir d'un point quelconque entre Almyro et Volo, sur le Golfe du même nom, pour aboutir à un point convenable de la Vallée d'Aspropotamo après avoir englobé Almyro et Domoko, qui seraient cédés à la Grèce, ainsi qu'une partie des districts de Cardhitza et de Pharsale, qui serait déterminée ultérieurement par des officiers topographes. Les Commissaires Ottomans s'efforcèrent de faire ressortir les avantages stratégiques et économiques de cette ligne de démarcation, en ajoutant que son point de départ sur le Golfe de Volo ferait disparaître tout danger de contestation future, et que le point de terminus sur Aspropotamo pouvait être fixé de manière à former une ligne stratégique, aussi bien que naturelle, offrant toutes les conditions qui pussent assurer les intérêts des deux pays.

Les Commissaires du Gouvernement Royal répondirent à cette déclaration qu'ils regrettaient que tout le temps écoulé depuis leur dernière séance n'eut abouti finalement qu'à la proposition de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman, d'une ligne qui n'était nullement conforme aux indications du Protocole 13, qu'ils avaient déjà déclaré ne pouvoir se départir de la ligne indiquée dans ce Protocole, et qu'ils se croyaient obligés de mettre fin aux séances et de rompre les négociations.

A la suite de cette déclaration des Commissaires du Gouvernement Royal, leurs collègues n'ont pas manqué d'exprimer leurs regrets, en faisant observer en même temps que si une entente entre les deux Commissions n'a pu être obtenu, c'est grâce à la manière de voir du Cabinet d'Athènes, qui persistait à s'en tenir aux indications du Protocole 13.

Cette séance ayant mis fin aux négociations entamées entre les Commissaires des deux Etats pour la rectification des frontières, nos Délégués, persuadés de l'inutilité de la prolongation de leur séjour, ont quitté le lendemain la rade de Preveza pour revenir à Athènes.

J'espère, Monsieur, que le récit qui précède vous donnera une idée exacte de la manière dont la Puissance limitrophe et le Gouvernement Royal ont agi pendant la période de leur entente directe sur la question qui nous occupe. Au silence du Gouvernement Ottoman nous avons opposé la patience, et à ces interminables lenteurs, la rapidité de nos décisions.

Nous avons combattu les subterfuges et les tergiversations, en poursuivant l'accomplissement immédiat de l'objet de nos négociations sans dévier de la ligne de conduite que nous nous sommes tracée dès le début.

Mais toutes ces longues et laborieuses négociations n'ont servi qu'à constater l'inutilité de nos efforts.

La situation créée au Gouvernement Royal par cette attitude de la Porte était bien pénible, mais nous avions à remplir un devoir qui nous était imposé par les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, celui de nous entendre directement avec la Turquie.

Nous avons la conscience de l'avoir rempli avec toute la patience, la modération, et la loyauté dont nous nous sommes faites une règle de conduite.

Mais, après l'accomplissement de ce devoir, le Gouvernement du Roi se trouve dans le cas prévu par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, et fait appel à la médiation que les Puissances signataires du susdit Traité se sont réservé d'offrir aux deux parties.

Lorsque le Plénipotentiaire Hellénique avait été admis à exposer au sein du Congrès les vœux de la Grèce, la Haute Assemblée, ayant trouvée fondées les raisons invoquées par lui, a bien voulu admettre une partie de ses demandes.

Cependant la Grèce n'hésita pas à souscrire aux décisions de l'Europe.

Depuis aucun fait nouveau ne s'est produit qui pût modifier les raisons qui avaient dicté aux Puissances cette résolution.

Ainsi le Gouvernement Royal s'adresse de nouveau en toute confiance aux Grandes Puissances: à l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande Bretagne, l'Italie, et la Russie, et invoque leur médiation pour que les décisions du Congrès concernant la rectification des frontières reçoivent leur exécution intégrale, et conforme à la pensée qui les a dictées.

Au moment où toutes les décisions du Congrès de Berlin viennent d'être successivement exécutées, le Gouvernement Royal se refuse à l'idée que les stipulations qui concernent la rectification des frontières du Royaume Hellénique resteraient seules sans exécution, tandis que l'intérêt majeur des deux Etats limitrophes, ainsi que la tranquillité de l'Orient exigent impérieusement leur exécution intégrale. Par toutes ces raisons nous sommes fermement convaincus que les Grandes Puissances aviseront aux moyens qu'elles croieront convenables pour arriver à cette exécution.

Vous êtes priés de donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, et de lui en laisser copie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 849.

Memorandum by Major Wilson, R.E., on Duties of Her Majesty's Consul-General and Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

1. THERE is at present little definite information respecting the political state of Asia Minor, the condition of the people, and the wants, feelings, and aspirations of the great mass of the population.

2. Recent events in the East have drawn attention to Armenia and Kurdistan, and much has been added to our knowledge of the Armenians and Kurds during the last few years; the remaining portion of the country and its inhabitants are but little known.

3. Travellers have passed at intervals over the main routes and visited the principal towns, but there are large districts which have, it is believed, never been visited by an European.

4. Under these circumstances, the first duty of the officers appointed to act as Vice-Consuls will be to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the country, the character of the people, and the manner in which the government is administered.

5. Accurate information can only be obtained in the East by personal observation and intercourse with the people, and this involves pretty constant travelling.

6. It is proposed to assign a certain district, preferably a vilayet, to each Vice Consul, and to instruct him, whilst making the seat of Government his head-quarters, to spend a large portion of the year in travelling.

7. The knowledge thus acquired would be of great assistance to the Vice-Consuls in their intercourse with the local Governors, and might, if used with tact, be the means of establishing that personal influence which can alone lead to beneficial results.

8. Turkish Governors, often well-intentioned men, do not frequently leave the seat of Government; they depend much on hearsay evidence, which is valueless, and their decisions are too often influenced by those who can bribe the highest.

9. It is easy to see that cases might arise in which a Governor would be glad to obtain the opinion of an unprejudiced man having a personal knowledge of the country and its people, and the feeling that the Vice-Consul had this knowledge would go far to secure attention to any advice or remonstrance he might find it necessary to address to the local authorities.

10. The first year would then be one of observation, the travelling expenses would necessarily be high, but I believe the money would be well expended, and that the value of the information which would be acquired can hardly be exaggerated.

11. The Vice-Consuls would probably be able to report pretty fully on their respective districts by October or November, and the Consul-General might possibly be in a position to forward their reports to the Foreign Office, with one of his own on the general state of the whole country, by January or February.

12. Her Majesty's Government would thus be placed in possession of information sufficiently accurate to enable them to take into consideration the arrangements for the financial year 1880-81, the present arrangements being of a temporary nature.

13. The Vice-Consuls whilst travelling would be able to collect, without attracting attention, a large amount of military information for the use of the War Office.

14. Instructions would be issued to the Vice-Consuls under which the military information would be collected and arranged on one fixed system for convenience of reference.

15. It is proposed to draw up a general scheme for a military report on Asia Minor, with special reference to the defence of the new frontier, and if this is to be of any value the whole country must be taken into consideration.

16. It is on this account desirable, from a military point of view, that the Consul at Erzeroum should be confidentially instructed to work in concert with the Consul-General for Anatolia in all matters relating to the collection of military information, and to forward to him copies of any reports bearing on the military situation.

17. The Consul-General would send a copy of the scheme to the Consul at Erzeroum, and indicate the points requiring examination.

18. It is not unlikely that Russia, and possibly other Powers, when the appointment of a Consul-General and six Vice-Consuls in Anatolia becomes known, will seek to appoint Vice-Consuls.

19. It is needless to say that the presence of Russian Consuls would seriously interfere with any efforts the British Consuls might make to improve the Government of the country, and it is a question whether some representation might not be made to the Porte on the subject.

20. There are no Russian trade interests of any importance in Anatolia, and the appointment of Russian Consuls could only be for purposes of intrigue.

21. The British Consuls being appointed in connection with the Convention with Turkey, the Porte might perhaps be asked to discourage the appointment of Consuls by other Powers.

22. From the Consular Reports it would appear that there is great distress amongst the emigrants who have recently passed into Anatolia; a limited sum of money placed at the disposal of the Consul-General for the relief of urgent cases of distress, might enable him to acquire influence amongst the people.

23. It is desirable that immediate steps should be taken to obtain the necessary Firmans, &c., for the Consul-General and Vice-Consuls, so that no delay may occur on their arrival at Constantinople.

24. It would seem advisable that the Consul-General should, in the first instance, make a tour through Anatolia, to gain a general knowledge of the country and make the acquaintance of the several Governors.

25. Special arrangements will have to be made for keeping up communication between the Consul-General and Constantinople, and between the former and the

Vice-Consuls. A native messenger permanently attached to the Consulate would perhaps be the best plan.

26. As regards the first arrangements I would propose making my own head-quarters at Sivas for the Vilayets of Sivas and Janik, and placing the Vice-Consuls at Kaisariyeh for Adana and Eastern Angora; at Konieh for Konieh; at Kastamuni for Kastamuni; at Aidin for Aidin; and at Kara Hissar for Brusa; the sixth Vice-Consul would be available for Van.

27. I propose to leave England on the 24th April, and Constantinople as early as possible in May, making my way by Ismid, Brusa, Kara Hissar, Konieh, and Kaisariyeh to Sivas. Then to visit Samsun, Sinope, and Kastamuni, returning to Sivas viâ Angora. In this way I should visit the principal towns in the country, and make the acquaintance of the Governors.

28. During the winter I would propose visiting Adana and the low-lying coast districts.

29. In the first journey I should be accompanied by the two student dragomans, and possibly one or more of the Vice-Consuls.

30. Reports would be forwarded from time to time on the state of the country.

31. As the appointments are new ones, it is suggested that the Consul-General be authorized to purchase certain books on Asia Minor which are necessary. One of these, by Tchihatchoff, which must be in the possession of the Consul-General, costs 14*l.* 14*s.*, and probably an expenditure of about 25*l.* or 30*l.* will be required.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*

March 31, 1879.

No. 850.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, March 31, 1879.

AT the instance of Prince Gortchacow I have handed him a note conveying the assurances sanctioned by your Lordship in your telegram of the 25th instant regarding our intention to require Porte to respect Roumelian Constitution. Prince Gortchacow has replied by a corresponding note reiterating the Emperor's assurances that he would induce Christians in Roumelia to submit loyally to the Porte's authority. The Prince desires the substance of these two notes to be communicated in writing to the Porte. I have told him that there had been no agreement between us as to any written communication, but that probably your Lordship would see no objection to a compliance with his wishes.

No. 851.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 272.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me confidentially that the Council yesterday decided to recommend His Imperial Majesty to accept mixed occupation.

It proposes, in answering, to show that the situation which has rendered the occupation necessary is in no way to be attributed to the Porte. It will then, to necessitate occupation, make use of the reasons used by your Lordship for recommending the Porte to accept, and it will further explain that the occupation will take place in order to render the execution of the Treaty of Berlin possible, and that it will in no way detract from the rights of the Porte acquired by that Treaty.

No. 852.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 273.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

SULTAN stated to me this afternoon that he had confirmed the decision of his Government to accept mixed occupation.

No. 853.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 274.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

THE Sultan wishes Mr. Maigg [? Gregg] not to start till His Majesty has communicated further with me on the subject.

No. 854.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 275.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

I SPOKE to the Sultan very seriously to-day about the Austrian Convention, as the negotiations are in a very critical condition. His Majesty said that he would accept the decision of his Ministry. I asked him to influence that decision, and pointed out the dangerous consequences of a rupture of the negotiations. I had heard previously that His Majesty refused to accept the decision of his Government on the subject, so that I hope that my advice may have at least obviated this.

No. 855.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

THE Sultan intends to send Hobart Pasha and a high functionary to Italy, as bearers of a letter to the Queen, on the occasion of Her Majesty's journey. He has given Hobart Pasha the First Class of the Order of the Osmanie, and intends to raise his rank previously to his leaving with the letter.

No. 856.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, March 31, 1879.

I HAVE received the following figures from Mr. MacDonell, dated to-day, 4.30 P.M. :—

"The Special Agent sent by the Italian Government to Epirus confirms the report of the Italian Consuls that any attempt to rectify Greek frontier in that direction will meet with serious opposition.

"Confidential representations have been made in that sense to France.

"Two Albanian Chiefs are on their way to Rome and Paris."

No. 857.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. THOMAS MICHELL has been appointed Consul-General at Philippopolis. His commission will be sent to you direct.

He will be instructed to proceed to his post immediately.

No. 858.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879, 3·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DOES your project still propose that officers of gendarmerie should be appointed by Governor? Is not that against the Treaty, and therefore *ultra vires?*

In handing over to province all real property belonging to the State, would it not be wise to reserve to the Empire property on frontier necessary for the purpose of fortification and garrison?

No. 859.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. SANDWITH reports, in his despatch No. 16 of the 15th February, that Porte refuses to surrender any portion of customs dues towards local Budget. You should point out to the Grand Vizier the great impolicy of departing from engagements taken in Article 13 of the Firman on this subject.

No. 860.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE announcement respecting Exhibition at Prague, forwarded in your despatch of the 17th instant, was not received in time to admit of public notice in England before the end of this month. Can an extension of time for application for space from British exhibitors be obtained? If not Her Majesty's Government cannot take steps in the matter.

No. 861.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879, 6·45 P.M.

(Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

INFORM Grand Vizier, and, if necessary, Sultan, that the Mixed Occupation question stands thus:—

Lord Dufferin, Count Schouvaloff, Count Andrassy, and Sir H. Wolff, who all have in various ways means of knowing, and are friendly to the Berlin Treaty, press the mixed occupation keenly. Prince Gortchacow and the military party at the Czar's Court are strongly against it, and if they can delay till Schouvaloff is gone they will draw back out of their recent proposals. Germany also dislikes it. If, therefore, the Turks now refuse, they will please all their enemies and disregard the advice of all their friends. The moment it is known that Turkey refuses everyone will look forward to a sanguinary campaign in Eastern Roumelia. What chance with such a prospect of capitalists lending money?

No. 862.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 450.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

YOU will have received from Her Majesty's Consul in Crete a copy of his despatch to me No. 16, Political, of the 15th ultimo, relative to two questions which have been in discussion between the Porte and the General Assembly—that of a contribution from the customs revenues to supplement the deficit which seems now inevitable in the local budget, and that of the remission of tithes on produce gathered in during the insurrection.

The latter question seems happily to have been set at rest, the Sultan having consented to forego any further claim to the disputed tithes. But in regard to the other matter, Mr. Sandwith reports that the Council of Ministers have come to an unfavourable decision, and have informed the Governor-General that they cannot part with any portion of the customs dues for administrative purposes. Photiades Pasha fears that if this resolution is persisted in it will lead to a rupture with the Assembly.

I have requested you, by telegraph, to point out to the Grand Vizier the impolicy of departing from the engagements taken in this respect in Article 13 of the Firman recently granted by the Sultan. It would be very unfortunate if disturbances recommenced in the island, and if the insurgents could allege as a ground for the movement that the Porte had failed to fulfil promises so recently made. Her Majesty's Government are the more concerned in the matter as they have used their best efforts to facilitate the arrangement which is embodied in the Firman.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 863.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 454. Very Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day instructed you by telegraph to inform the Grand Vizier, and the Sultan also, if necessary, of the present state of the question as regards the proposed temporary occupation of Eastern Roumelia by a mixed force on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

Count Schouvaloff, Count Andrassy, Lord Dufferin, and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, who have each their separate means of forming a correct judgment of the situation, and who are all anxious to see the settlement made at Berlin fairly carried into execution, are strongly in favour of the project.

Prince Gortchacow and the military party at the Court of St. Petersburgh are, on the contrary, much opposed to it, and there is every reason to expect that if they can postpone its adoption until Count Schouvaloff has left Russia, they will induce the Emperor to take some opportunity of withdrawing from the proposal he has made. The German Government are also unfavourable to the plan.

If, therefore, the Turkish Government now refuse their assent, they will be taking the course most agreeable to their enemies, and acting in disregard of the advice of all their friends.

As soon as it is known that the Porte has returned a refusal, there will be a general expectation of a sanguinary campaign in Eastern Roumelia. It is needless to say that with such an expectation no capitalists can be expected to make advances on the security of Turkish revenues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 864.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 182.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE addressed to you this day, by telegraph, inquiries as to the two following points:—

I am desirous of knowing whether the draft Constitution, as settled by the Commission, contains a provision that the officers of the gendarmerie should be appointed by the Governor-General of the province. It seems to me to be doubtful whether such a provision would not be contrary to Article XV of the Treaty of Berlin, stipulating that these officers are to be appointed by the Sultan. An alteration of this stipulation would be beyond the competency of the Commission.

I have further suggested that, in handing over to the province all real property belonging to the State, it would be expedient to reserve to the Sultan, or the Central Government, the property on the frontier necessary for the purpose of fortification, and for providing accommodation for the Turkish garrison.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 865.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 201.)
Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called to-day to speak to me with respect to the provision in the Bulgarian Constitution which gave an hereditary character to the Princely office. His Excellency said that Count Andrassy has considered my opinions, which you submitted to him on the receipt of my telegram of the 21st instant, as to the proper interpretation of the IIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and as to the most expedient course to be pursued, and he admitted that there was much foundation for them. On the whole his present conclusion was that it was not necessary to announce any decision, but that the expression of the opinions of both Governments on the point might be reserved until the election of a Prince had actually taken place.

I said that I saw no objection to this mode of action.

His Excellency then referred to the question of the command of the mixed forces which would form the corps of occupation in Eastern Roumelia in case of the mixed occupation being accepted. He said that his communications with the German Ambassador did not leave him much hope that the German Government would take part in the operation, and observed that in that case the command would probably be given in rotation to each Power whose forces were engaged.

I replied that the matter was one on which I would rather not commit myself, as I was not even certain whether it would be necessary that the troops of all the Powers should be cantoned together. It might possibly be found more convenient to keep them apart, in which case each contingent would obey its own Commander under the orders of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 866.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No 202. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

COUNT KAROLYI expressed to me to-day the great regret of the Austro-Hungarian Government at the premature publication of my despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus of the 26th January last, which appeared in the "Politische Correspondinz." His Excellency said that Count Andrassy had made careful inquiries, and had only been able to ascertain that the copy used by that newspaper had come from Constantinople through the hands of Baron Schluger, a species of adventurer, whose name was given to me in strict confidence. He said that it would cause Count Andrassy deep regret if it should turn out to be the case that the Austrian Embassy at Constantinople had been the cause of the indiscretion being committed.

I thanked his Excellency for his explanations, and said that though the publication of the despatch had caused a certain amount of inconvenience I could not say that any harm had been done by it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 867.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 16. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

I THINK it right to forward to you the correspondence marked in the margin with reference to the wording of a portion of Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin.* You will perceive that the word "près" has been accidentally omitted in the description of the frontier at Karaourgan, but that Count Schouvaloff has acknowledged that the word should have been inserted.

From a telegram which has been now received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh I have been informed that the Russian Government agrees to the introduction of the word omitted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 868.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state that it will shortly be necessary to appoint a British officer to act on the Commission for settling the new frontier of Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin, and I am to request that you will move Secretary Colonel Stanley to select an officer for this appointment.

The frontier is one in which British interests are only indirectly concerned. The sanction of the Treasury has been given, in a letter (copy of which was inclosed in one from this Office of the 21st September last), for the employment of a single officer on this service, with the same rate of pay as that given to the Assistants of the other Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* To Lord Odo Russell, No. 365 A, July 16; Sir L. Simmons, July 19; Lord Odo Russell, No. 448, July 29; Mr. Dering, No. 471, August 7, 1878; To the Earl of Dufferin, No. 46, March 12, 1879.